

Let the music play

Artists set tone for perfect day, night

By Haley Myles
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Music set the tone of a wedding. It sets the stage for a romantic ambience during the ceremony and creates a memorable first dance. It lifts the mood and gets the party started at the reception.

With so many options, deciding what music will be played and who will perform can add to the stress of wedding planning. "Live music adds a touch of class and elegance to a wedding, we think it's the most important part of the wedding," said Tony Gizzi, owner of The Shrewsbury String Quartet.

Cellist Gizzi has been performing at weddings for more than 20 years.

"I was in corporate America before this but decided to turn an avocation into a vocation," he said. "Most of the people coming out of conservatories are very good musicians but they don't have business sense. My corporate background and business sense makes my business work."

The Shrewsbury String Quartet has a network of more than 60 musicians in the tri-state area and performs at more than 125 weddings every year. Gizzi said beach weddings are the quartet's most popular events in Delaware. Gizzi assists with the selection of music and has created a website for clients to use as a helpful resource. "I tried to make my website as helpful as possible and I am always happy to answer any questions about making selections," said Gizzi. "I hope my website allows brides to get a feel for my personality. I try to be sincere: 'The quartet's goal is to alleviate as much of the bride's stress as possible."

"Generally, the brides will pick out the ceremony music and the rest of the wedding music is up to us. "We try not to

let bride get bogged down," said Gizzi. "We go for a lighter mixture for cocktail hour and familiar classical music, tied in with show tunes and contemporary music. Recent popular selections include, "Vive La Vida" by Coldplay, "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz and "Make You Feel My Love" By Adele.

For Gizzi, it's more than just providing a service, he is also a shoulder for brides to lean on. "We believe in no stress for the bride. We pride ourselves on being the easiest vendors they will ever work with," he said. "My brides don't just become my customers, they become my friends. "I've had brides come to me before the wedding, fully dressed in their gowns and give me a big hug and kiss.

Anybody can play music but if you can make it an enjoyable experience for the bride then you have something special. "Timing is key to perfectly executing a wedding. We're very familiar with the wedding process and the timing of a wedding," he said. "We can reduce a lot of the bride's stress by pointing them in the right direction of what music they may want. We time the music so the wedding processions transition smoothly. No one wants to hear mistakes."

