

Booking Considerations & Information

Pricing

Your Quote

Diamond Strings creates customised quotes depending on the variables listed below:

- Number of musicians
- Length of booking (1 hour minimum)
- If amplification is required (and if portable battery power is needed)
- Special requests
- Travel

Payment

Diamond Strings will invoice you for a \$100 deposit to secure your booking. This deposit will be returned to your bank account promptly after the wedding day. Should your wedding ceremony exceed the agreed booking length Diamond Strings will withhold the amount owed for the extra time of playing. That is, you will be charged \$25 per musician for each quarter hour overtime that they must remain to play to the end of the ceremony.

Diamond Strings musicians love playing at weddings and would never dream of leaving a wedding ceremony that hasn't finished because the booking time has run out. This deposit is to pay the musicians fairly for any legitimate overtime that may have occurred, and it also gives you peace of mind that it doesn't matter if the wedding runs a little late.

The final Diamond Strings payment is due 2 weeks prior to the wedding. You will be invoiced for both the deposit and final payment and may make a direct deposit bank transfer. If you would prefer to use another form of payment this can be discussed at the time of booking.

Booking Length

Diamond Strings recommends the following booking lengths for wedding ceremonies. These times include 15 minutes of pre ceremony music and a little 'in case' time. If you would like longer pre ceremony music, or some post ceremony music you will need to increase these times to suit you.

- Civil ceremony (30 minutes): 1 hour booking
- Religious ceremony (45 minutes): 1.25 to 1.5 hour booking
- Catholic Full Nuptial Mass (1 hour & 15 minutes): 1.75 to 2 hour booking

Considerations when deciding on your wedding ceremony booking length include:

- Ceremony length.
- Pre ceremony music. 15-30 minutes of music before your ceremony is a beautiful way to welcome your guests.
- Post ceremony music. If you are having drinks and canapés after the ceremony you may like to accompany these refreshments with an additional 15-30 minutes of music.
- Extra 'in case' time. Even the most carefully planned wedding days can have little things that make the bride run late, or the ceremony take a little more time than expected.

Special Requests

Diamond Strings is pleased to offer one complimentary special request. Additional special requests are charged at \$50 per song.

(Please view this cost as a special offer for Diamond Strings clients, as it is not a true reflection of the time, cost and effort it takes to produce a new song. That is, it takes on average about five hours to arrange and rehearse a song. Additionally, Diamond Strings pay for the original sheet music, and backing tracks to use in creating an arrangement, and the violinists are paid for rehearsal time.)

Travel Costs

Travel fees will be charged for venues more than 45 minutes drive from Sutherland, NSW. Travel fees will be quoted at the time of enquiry, and are based on charging \$1 per musician, per minute beyond a 90 minute round trip.

For example, a venue that is 1.5 hours drive from Sutherland will attract a fee of \$90 per musician.

Music

Customised playlist

Diamond Strings will always discuss the music style with clients prior to the event so that the most suitable playlist can be created for them. For example, you may wish to have the performance mainly comprise of classical or jazz/pop/rock/contemporary songs. Or you may prefer classical for the first hour and a more contemporary mix of songs for the second hour.

Special requests (songs not on the repertoire list)

Clients receive a complimentary offer of one special request song arranged and rehearsed for their event. Any extra songs will incur an additional fee of \$50.00 per song.

iPod/iPhone Service

To continue to have pre-recorded background music playing during your event while the Diamond Strings musicians take a short break, an iPod/iPhone service is offered. The device is simply plugged in to play through the musicians' PA system.

Musician breaks

In order to maintain their best playing standard throughout, the musicians may require short breaks during their booking. If the musicians are performing continuously for 2 + hours, they will require a 5-10 minute break each hour.

Equipment

Diamond Strings offers the most attractive, highest quality equipment for their presentations, including:

- Professional quality acoustic and electric **string instruments**
- **Chic, white wooden chairs**. One per musician for ensemble performances.
- **Classic white umbrella** (to provide protection for the instruments from direct sunlight or sprinkling rain).
- Beautiful black **leather music folders**.
- Vintage design, black wrought **iron music stands**
- ***Amplification: Bose L1 Compact PA system with wireless transmitters**. This amplification service is provided in all 'reception' and 'special event' packages for bookings with 1-2 musicians. Diamond Strings musicians ensure an early arrival to set up the PA and instruments and do a sound check. They will monitor the sound level to make sure it's the perfect level for beautiful background music.

Amplification

Amplification equipment is included in all Diamond Strings wedding and special event performances where background music is performed as guests are celebrating, such as during drinks and canapés. When guests are socialising and chatting with each other, sound levels naturally increase, particularly indoors. At this point the beautiful background music that has been specially organized goes unheard, unless the musicians are amplified.

Diamond Strings Guitar & Violin Duo is also always amplified to ensure the sound carries appropriately.

- Diamond Strings has **state of the art Bose L1 Compact amplification equipment** that can be used for Solo or Duo performances. The amazing, unique design of the speakers enable **distribution of sound evenly** over a space of 100 metres squared. This means that when guests are close to the speaker they're not overpowered with sound, and equally they can still hear the music perfectly at 100 metres away!
- Another advantage of the Diamond Strings amplification system is that it uses **discreet wireless transmitters**. This means that the musicians won't have any untidy cables or bulky belt packs, but can still sit anywhere in the room away from the speaker.
- Diamond Strings' amplification is a **special, unique service that is rare to find in Australia**. The pickups, transmitters and P.A. system that Diamond Strings supplies are all designed specifically for string instruments. And they work together to perfectly amplify the beautiful string sound. As such, **Diamond Strings cannot share speaker systems** with celebrants or venues due to technical and incompatibility issues.

Please note, the amplifier/speaker is **not battery powered and needs a power point to be supplied**. If your drinks & canapés take place somewhere away from a building (eg: a garden or a beach) **Diamond Strings can supply their own custom designed battery power source at an additional fee of \$50**.

Please note, this equipment is **not able to be used if it is raining or sprinkling**, unless it is set up under cover.

Amplification is not included for wedding ceremony performances of the violin duo as the string instruments naturally project a full acoustic sound, and beautifully complement the quiet, peaceful atmosphere of a wedding ceremony. The solo violin will need to be amplified for outdoor events, however inside a church, the solo instrument carries beautifully so it may be booked as an acoustic performance.

Please contact Melanie to discuss the suitability of amplification at your event.