

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
- Special requests
- Travel

Payment

Diamond Strings requires a \$100 deposit to secure a booking. The final payment is due 2 weeks prior to the wedding. Clients will be invoiced for both payments 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.

Overtime

If your event extends longer than the agreed booking length Diamond Strings will invoice you for the extra time. Diamond Strings recommend booking a little extra time so that you may have peace of mind on the day.

Booking Length

Things to consider 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.

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: 1 hour
- Religious ceremony: 1.5 hours
- Catholic Full Nuptial Mass: 2 hours

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Special Requests

Diamond Strings offers complimentary special requests depending on the chosen wedding package/booking length as listed below. Additional special requests are charged at \$50 due to the time it takes to arrange and rehearse the music.

All Diamond Strings Wedding Packages:

- 1 hour - 1 request
- 1.25 to 1.5 hours - 2 requests
- 2 hours - 3 requests
- 2.5 to 3 hours - 4 requests

Diamond Serenade Wedding Reception Package:

- 1 hour - 5 requests

Travel Costs

Travel will not be charged where the overall travel distance is 100km (50km each way) from Sutherland, NSW. Where the overall travel distance exceeds 100km from Sutherland, travel will be charged. The details of this fee will be discussed and confirmed with you at the time of booking.

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/modern compositions. Or you may prefer classical for the 1st hour and a more modern mix of songs for the 2nd hour.

Special requests (songs not on the repertoire list)

Clients receive a complimentary offer of between 1 - 5 special request songs arranged and rehearsed for their event, dependent on the package booked. Any extra songs will incur an additional fee of \$50.00 for each 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.

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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.
- **Musician stool** (black) for serenade 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.

Diamond Serenade

Performance

For serenade style performances, background music is played for one hour by Melanie as she wanders around the venue entertaining guests upon their arrival. Following this hour, Melanie is seated on a black stool with a beautiful music stand as she continues to play for the next 30 minutes.

The serenade style is perfect for welcoming guests for 30-60 minutes at a wedding reception or special event as guests arrive, mingle and enjoy drinks and canapés.

If you wish to have music being performed for more than one hour at your reception or special event, Diamond Strings recommends booking the serenade first, followed by a solo violin, or ensemble performance. The Diamond Serenade performance will last for the 1st hour before the violinist takes a short break. Seated on her musician stool, she will then resume playing solo violin from a music stand. Alternatively, if an ensemble has been booked, the ensemble will arrive towards the end of the first hour to set up and be ready to commence from the second hour onwards.

Acoustic or electric violin

Serenade clients are invited to select which kind of violin they would like to have played at their event.

The two options are:

- A beautiful handcrafted Italian acoustic violin. For clients who favour a vintage, classic look whilst maintaining perfect amplification.
- A professional Yamaha electric violin, complete with a pearl white violin outline and a black fingerboard. For a glamorous, modern edge to your event.

Serenade Attire

The Diamond Serenade performance is complemented by the musicians' gorgeous selection of luxurious designer dresses in a variety of colours, fabrics and styles - to best suit the style of your event.

For more information, and to view our video please see 'About Diamond Serenade' on our website.

Amplification

Amplification equipment is included in all wedding and special event bookings of Diamond Solo, Duo or Serenade performances where background music is performed as guests are celebrating. 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 has **state of the art Bose L1 Compact amplification equipment** that can be used for Solo, Duo or Serenade 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**. Also, 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, as the string instruments naturally project a full acoustic sound, and beautifully complement the quiet, peaceful atmosphere of a wedding ceremony.

Also, at some outdoor events the amplification may not be needed for Diamond Serenade performances.

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

Musician breaks

In order to maintain their best playing standard throughout, the musicians require a short 10 minute break during their performance. If the booking is longer than an hour e.g. for 2 hours, the musicians will take a break after the first hour for 10 minutes.