Music, Music, Music

Choosing a DJ or Band
The best way to find a band or DJ is from firsthand experience. Think about who you like to watch perform at local bars or clubs. Have you been to a wedding recently where the band rocked? Your DJ or band is your entertainment and you want them to do just that. Select your DJ or band 6-8 months before your wedding. Choose a reputable, experienced DJ or band that fits in your budget. Your DJ can add extra value by acting as your MC: announcing your arrival and introductions at the reception, the first dance, the dollar dance, and other events such as the garter and bouquet toss. Be sure to give them a copy of your wedding itinerary and ask them to help keep your party on track. At your consultation, let them know the venue size and details, how long you are planning to book music, and song ideas for key events. Ask for their suggestions.

Questions to Ask
• Can you see them perform?
• How many weddings do they work per year?
• Have they worked at your venue?
• What are their price options? Are there any additional fees?
• What are their payment options and cancellation fees?
• Do they take requests?
• When will they set up and tear down?
• What attire will they wear?
• Will they act as your Master of Ceremonies (MC)?
• Do they have professional equipment?
• Will they play a variety of music?
• Do they have references?

Dinner Music
During dinner, you may opt for some gentle background music, such as a string quartet or a harpist. Light instrumental background music will add a festive atmosphere during this time while still allowing your guests to converse.

Reception Music
Let your DJ or band get your party started. Prepare your DJ with a vast selection of songs you enjoy as a couple. Include any guests' preferences by asking for song ideas on your RSVP's or wedding website. Play a variety for all of your guests to appreciate from slow to fast, and country to rock. Have your DJ get your guests up and moving with different interactive or participation songs.