

Bridal Buzz

Here, wedding experts share their best tips for your big day

Reported by Betsy Goldberg and Brenna McLoughlin



best favors

- Homemade jam, preserves, chutney, relish or honey. You can attach a tag to each jar with a personal message from the bride and groom.
- Boxed assortments of tiny, delicious petits fours adorned with the bride and groom's first initials.
- Small earthenware pots filled with moss, herbs or bonsai trees and tied with ivy, ribbon or raffia.
- Three small rectangular sachets monogrammed with the couple's initials and date of wedding, packaged in a thin rectangular box and beautifully wrapped.
- Tiny, hand-painted wooden sculptures of birds indigenous to the area (for a beach wedding). The artist can inscribe the couple's name, wedding date and location on the underside.
- A split or full bottle of wine from a winery. On each bottle place a custom label with the couple's name, date of wedding, location of wedding, etc.
- A CD of the couple's favorite songs, decorated with the couple's photograph.



BEST FIRST-DANCE SONGS

- "I Could Not Ask For More," Edwin McCain (a great rock ballad)
- "Fly," Sara Groves (a contemporary waltz)
- "Overjoyed," Stevie Wonder (a super-romantic song about true love)
- "For Always," Lara Fabian and Josh Groban (terrific contemporary duet)
- "Nearness of You," Norah Jones (a great rendition of an old classic...and you can foxtrot to it)
- "Comes Love," Peter Cincotti (fun and playful)
- "Breathe," Faith Hill (a song both danceable and romantic)
- "Tupelo Honey," Van Morrison (a classic feel, minus the sense that you've heard it a million times)
- "The Best is Yet To Come," Frank Sinatra (upbeat, romantic—and fresh)
- "You're the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me," Gladys Knight (a classic from a Motown diva)

—Deanna Jones, *The Deanna Jones Orchestra*
(Deanna did the music for the wedding of Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas)

—Elizabeth K. Allen, wedding producer, NYC
(most recently planned Matt and Annette Lauer's wedding, and Ben Stifer and Christine Taylor's wedding)

best flower girl ideas

As you walk down the aisle, have your little lady-in-waiting:

- Blow bubbles that will float around you.
- Toss fairy dust (mini glitter, available at craft stores).
- Scoop petals from a pail.
- Sprinkle aromatic herbs like lavender and rosemary.
- Hand single flowers to guests seated at the end of rows.
- Deliver fragrant nosegays to both moms.

—Karen Bussen, *Karen Bussen Floral and Event Designer, NYC*



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