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The Wedding Singer Takes a Celebrity Turn

To delight their guests, couples are booking musical headliners to give surprise performances at their weddings.



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Rachel Dalton, the president of a namesake production company in New York, helps couples negotiate and finalize contracts with talent using her background as an entertainment lawyer. Her team also personally escorts the performer to and from the venue and ensures that every technical requirement is met. Her production firm has worked with such names as Chris Stapleton, Alicia Keys and the Rolling Stones.

“Everything must be in the artist’s agreement so the couple is protected,” Ms. Dalton said. “It’s a real investment and must be treated as such.”

When David Levy, 29, the royalties manager for a music company, booked Derek Sanders of Mayday Parade to perform three songs during his wedding in Brooklyn in May with Megan Carty, 29, a pharmacist. He also hired a sound engineer and a D.J. to meet equipment needs and make sure that the day-of logistics ran smoothly.

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Celebrity performances at weddings have recently made headlines: In April, Ankur Jain, the chief executive of Bilt Rewards, a loyalty rewards company, arranged to have the singer Robin Thicke and the electric violinist Lindsey Stirling for his wedding in Cairo to Erika Hammond, a wrestler with World Wrestling Entertainment.

For Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's recent [pre-wedding celebration](#) in Jamnagar, India, Rihanna took the stage, as well as the Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan. Mariah Carey sang her top hits for the fashion retail executive Umar Kamani and the model Nada Adelle at their wedding reception in Antibes, France, in May.

"A surprise headliner is not something the majority of guests have ever experienced before, even if they have been to dozens of weddings," said Tracy Taylor Ward, an event planner in New York who most recently worked with Flo Rida for a wedding performance. "It's incredibly memorable and fun."