

Frequently Asked Questions/Terms and Conditions of the Grace Quartet

What is a string quartet?

A string quartet is an ensemble of four instruments -- a first violin, a second violin, a viola (a slightly larger, deeper sounding version of a violin), and a cello.

How will a string quartet fit into your event?

The sound of a string quartet is smooth, romantic, and refined. Whether your event is an intimate gathering or is a lavish formal affair, music can be used to create an elegant atmosphere throughout your special day and will make an impression that will last long after the event is over.

Booking the Grace Quartet:

To contact us, please e-mail Michelle Wilson at gracequartet@cox.net or call (316) 942-3930.

When you decide that the Grace Quartet is exactly what you want for your event, please call Michelle and she will discuss our contracting procedure. She will quickly mail out a copy of the contract. Please read, sign, keep a copy, and return the original along with a 25% deposit. Your date and time will be held for 2 weeks from the day the contract is mailed to you. By signing, dating, and submitting a deposit you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Grace Quartet based on this FAQ.

Our Rates:

Indoor Event: \$220.00 per hour with a 5 minute break between each hour

Outdoor Event: \$260.00 per hour with a 5 minute break between each hour

Outside the Wichita City Limits (Andale, Andover, Bel Aire, Colwich, Derby, Goddard, Haysville, Maize, Park City and Valley Center): Travel surcharge of \$20.00

Outside the above ten locations up to 30 miles: \$40.00 plus state rate mileage (charged to and from rehearsal and wedding)

Over 30 miles outside of Wichita, KS: rates will be negotiated based on location

Extras (which lengthen time commitment and additional cost):

Rehearsal with soloist and/or other musician (requires arrival approximately 1 hour prior to event) \$125.00

Rehearsal with soloist and/or other musician (requires outside event rehearsal time) \$250.00

Special Music Requests:

Purchased Music: retail cost of music, plus shipping if applicable

Music Arranging: \$50.00 per song (Piano sheet music provided by client with written permission from copyright holder. Client is responsible for paying any royalties to the copyright holder.)

What does Grace Quartet need on the day of the event?

The quartet needs four chairs with flat seats and no arms.

Will the Grace Quartet play my outdoor event?

An outdoor event can be very beautiful and elegant. It can also have potential problems depending on the weather the day of the event. Wood/string instruments are subject to going out of tune and becoming damaged beyond repair if they are in high humidity, high heat, or sun. They can also be damaged if it is raining, snowing, or sleeting. These instruments range in value upwards of \$20,000 apiece. Therefore, it is the Grace Quartets preference not to play any outdoor events especially in the months of June, July, and August.

If you really want an outdoor event and the Grace Quartet to accompany that event, we advise you to look at the months of March, April, May, September, October, and November. These months do not normally have the high humidity and heat that can cause the most damage to wood/string instruments.

If you choose to contract with the Grace Quartet to play your outdoor event, you will need to provide a canopy. This will protect the instruments from inclement weather, sun, birds and trees.

Please consider carefully when choosing an outdoor event as you will need a backup location on standby in case the weather is inclement the day of your event.

How do you dress when you perform?

Standard quartet attire is concert black.

How soon do we need to contract with the Grace Quartet to be assured of your availability?

You should contract as soon as the date and location of your event are set. We book on a first come, first serve basis. Your date and time will be held for two weeks from the day the contract was mailed to you.

I have a vocalist and/or musician performing at my event. Can the quartet accompany them?

We often accompany vocalists or other musicians. The piece must be something that either has been arranged for quartet, or can easily be arranged for four instruments.

Rehearsal is required at least 1 hour prior to the start of the event and this will add an additional charge of \$125.00. If you are choosing multiple pieces for us to perform together, if the pieces are very difficult or are unfamiliar to us, or if we will be performing with an amateur who needs more practice time with us, we may require a longer rehearsal time. A longer rehearsal time may need to be outside of the day of the event and will cost \$250.00. These details need to be worked out in advance and clearly stated on the contract.

What if I need to postpone or cancel my event?

- In the event of a postponement or cancellation, any money paid is 100% refundable up to 30 days advanced notice.
- In the event of a postponement or cancellation, any money paid is 50% refundable up to 14 days advanced notice
- In the event of a postponement or cancellation, any money paid is non-refundable 13 days or less prior to the wedding.
- The quartet is not responsible for conditions beyond our control such as severe weather conditions. In this case, any money paid is 100% refundable.
- In no case shall the quartet's liability be more than the amount paid to the quartet.

What other questions do you have?

Our quartet members have been playing for weddings and parties for years. Our manager has been servicing brides and clients for over five years and is happy to provide you with information and to offer her expertise and experience as you plan and prepare for your special day.

Please see the Grace Quartet member biographies on the website www.gracequartet.com for more information regarding them personally.