

Acoustic Jass

Acoustic Jass, is a four piece jazz band comprising Trumpet, Clarinet, Banjo & Sousaphone. Based near Southampton in Hampshire, they travel throughout the south of England including the home counties.

As the name suggests the instruments are acoustic and the band is not dependent on electricity, this makes them very versatile as they can move from outdoors to indoors as easily as the guests. This band doesn't need a lot of space, and pay attention to the client's requests on the volume level.

Acoustic Jass play a mixture of well known traditional jazz, blues, & popular tunes of the early 20th century in the New Orleans jazz style, that appeals to all ages. The traditional jazz style means that the tunes played have a beginning a middle and an end which appeals to most people, and are suitable for listening to (concert) or for dancing

A typical event could include the band playing gentle music while the guests are arriving or at a wedding while the photos are being taken, then moving to the dance floor to play music for dancing at whatever tempo the guests want. Sometimes they've led the procession of wedding guests from the ceremony to the reception.

The picture below shows that the band is truly acoustic and mobile, playing music outside on a hot summers afternoon for the wedding party to dance.



The picture above shows Acoustic Jass on the Bandstand in Romsey Memorial Park, after recording the CD "Bandstand"

They tailor the play list to the client's wishes from their repertoire, a selection is included on the back of this leaflet. If you would like a special tune not on the list they will learn it for you (provided it fits their style!) and, unusually for a jazz band they have some waltz's in their repertoire.

Acoustic Jass has played music for weddings outside the church, in hotels, village halls, marquee's and stately homes.

They have played the processional music for Church, Civil and Humanist ceremonies.

Acoustic Jass always present themselves in a smart uniform, usually striped blazers and if outside they wear boaters to give a "Twenties" look to set off the polished professional performance. Acoustic Jass now have evening dress tailcoats for the formal twenties theme, see picture on the last page.

Frequently asked questions

The Band

How many members are in Acoustic Jass?

Four.

What instrumentation does Acoustic Jass use?

Trumpet, Clarinet & Soprano Saxophone, Banjo, & Sousaphone & Bass Saxophone.

Does anyone in Acoustic Jass sing?

The usual trumpet player does occasionally but only when they play with amplification.

How long has Acoustic Jass been together as a group, with their current personnel?

Acoustic Jass started in 1998 and has had a stable line up since then.

Does Acoustic Jass always the same personnel, or do they use deputies on a regular basis?

They try to use the same members but do use deputies from a carefully selected pool.

Will it be Acoustic Jass that turns up or will it be a substitute band?

They never take a booking and then provide a substitute band, what you book is what you get.

What part of the wedding is Acoustic Jass experienced in?

playing while guests arrive for civil ceremony, playing processional music for bride and during ceremony, both civil and church, playing for drinks reception ,playing background music during wedding breakfast and playing for evening entertainment and dancing.

Can Acoustic Jass lead our procession?

Yes, they are mobile which is why they are in demand for leading wedding parties from the ceremony to the reception, however we need notice of this



Contract and Financial

How much does Acoustic Jass charge for an "x" hour performance?

They give an individual fixed quote depending on times, day of the week, travelling distance & time etc.

Does Acoustic Jass make any other charges above and beyond the quoted price?

No, their quote is fixed unless the client wishes to change the arrangements.

How much does Acoustic Jass charge for additional sets?

They will give a further fixed rate for additional sets, this is also based on time of the day (before or after midnight) etc. However, in fairness to both parties this should be negotiated at the initial quote stage.

Does Acoustic Jass have a contract?

They have a basic contract/confirmation letter if required.

Is Acoustic Jass willing to make additions to the contract to meet any special needs you may have?

They usually do!

What are Acoustic Jass's deposit and payment requirements?

They usually take a deposit of 25% for bookings more than a month ahead, payment is on the day in cash.

Does Acoustic Jass expect payment in full before the day of the reception?

No, they prefer cash on the night.

The Music

What styles of music does Acoustic Trumpet, & Occasional Vocal Jass play?

Traditional, New Orleans jazz, foot tapping music for dancing or restrained background music.

What sort of tunes does Acoustic Jass play?

Well known jazz, blues, spirituals, & popular tunes, of the early 20th century many of which were recorded at some time by Louis Armstrong, but then he recorded the best tunes of the era.

How many tunes do Acoustic Jass Banjo have on their repertoire?

About two hundred and its growing all the time, unusually for a jazz band they have some waltz's in their repertoire.

Will Acoustic Jass learn any special songs for you if they're not already in their repertoire?

Yes, if they fit within their type and style of music and you give them notice.

The Regular Players

Don Richards started playing in the fifties in London, in the 1980's he played with various bands that broadcast on national radio. Don continued to play with traditional bands and joined Acoustic Jass in March 2003.

Colin Brenton started playing in the fifties with the Tijuana Jazz Band and played at the Beaulieu Jazz Festival. He continued to play with Southampton based bands until joining Acoustic Jass in 1998.

Doug Kennedy is a very experienced player and has played with most of the well known London bands. He frequently tours Europe and has played with Acoustic Jass since October 2000

Martin Jones learnt to play in a brass band he then found a love in jazz. In 1995 he began playing with local players and went on to form his own band, Acoustic Jass.

Acoustic Jass

At the Performance

How much space does Acoustic Jass Require?

Approximately 5 square metres.

How long does Acoustic Jass require to set up?

30 mins in a clear space & 30 mins to pack away.

Does Acoustic Jass need electricity?

No, as their name suggests they are an acoustic band and only use amplification for vocals or if the environment demands it.

How long are Acoustic Jass's breaks?

15 to 20 min breaks,

Can Acoustic Jass provide music during the breaks?

They can provide music during breaks, given prior notice as they do not always use PA equipment.

At weddings can Acoustic Jass play outside to entertain the guests while the photographs are being taken?

Yes, they are mobile and can play inside or outside the ceremony venue and could lead a procession of guests to the reception.

Will Acoustic Jass be set up and ready to play when your guests arrive at the reception site, even if they are not due to play right away?

Yes, within reason.

Does Acoustic Jass expect to be fed?

It depends on the length of the booking and time of day, however they do appreciate liquid refreshment, not necessarily alcoholic!

Does Acoustic Jass accept more than one performance a day?

Only if there is more than sufficient time in between, including travelling time and set up/pack away times

To the gentlemen of Acoustic Jass,
 Thank you so much for agreeing to play at our wedding reception.
 The music was amazing and just what we had hoped for. Everyone commented on how wonderful it was and it created such a lovely atmosphere.
 Thanks again
 Natalie + Ian
 xxx

8 March 2004

Dear Martin
 Thank you so much for providing such fantastic music at our wedding reception at Longish House, everyone thoroughly enjoyed it & of course Alex & I were delighted.
 Thanks once again The Stone...

Dear Martin,
 Ben and I wanted to thank you and all the members of Acoustic Jass who helped to make our wedding reception such a special and memorable evening. We were really thrilled with the music and have had lots and lots of very positive feedback from our guests. We were so pleased to have chosen Acoustic Jass and you really did us proud!
 We will be looking out for your gigs in the future and hope to hear you again soon.
 Our thanks again, & best wishes
 Rachael & Ben Whitaker

Dear Martin
 "Acoustic Jass" were fantastic!
 You really made our party go with a swing and everybody enjoyed the music. You helped create just the atmosphere we wanted and we can't thank you enough for your and the bands efforts.
 We will definitely recommend you to our friends.
 Regards
 Helen and Manchie

A man came up to us after we had finished playing at a party and said "I don't like Jazz, but you guys were great"

Dear Acoustic Jass,
 MERRY CHRISTMAS!
 With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year
 Many thanks for all your fantastic entertainment at our wedding back in August. A lot of our guests remarked on how brilliant you were so thank you!
 Thought you might also enjoy a few pss
 Best wishes Becky & Steve

Dear Martin
 Just a note to thank you and the members of your group for making Aubridge Evening W.I.'s Jazz Evening such a success.
 So many people have contacted us since, to say how much they enjoyed the evening.
 I'm delighted to say that we raised £1,000 which is to be shared between Joine Scarth House and our own W.I. funds - so again many thanks for your help.
 Sincerely,
 V.

Dear Acoustic Jass

This is a very short note to say a big "thank you" for playing on our very special day on July 26th. Despite the dreadful weather conditions (!), you were all amazing + all of our friends + family thought you were just superb!!!
 Our very Best Wishes
 Karen

Just a short note to say thank you for making the 9th such a special day. We were really glad that you were available for the occasion. The music was absolutely what we wanted and was appreciated by all who celebrated with us. Apologies for all the questions that I know you received regarding the instruments - guess that we are not as knowledgeable about music as we thought we were.

We will take pleasure in recommending you to anyone who was interested in your kind of music.

Once again, many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Barbara + Bernard

Thank You

Dear Martin & band,
 Thank you so much for playing with such enthusiasm at our wedding - you were the icing on the cake of a great afternoon in the sunshine at our wedding breakfast.
 Your music was much enjoyed and commented on by many of our guests.
 Philippa & Nick
 31st May 2003

as part, Nick and I particularly remember being played in following the line up to join all of our friends and family.

It was a pleasure to meet you and enjoy your great music. Thank you again and best of luck with the band in the future.
 Kind regards,

Nick & Philippa later

Acoustic Jass

Play List From A Recent Reception

'S Wonderful
Careless Love
Just A Little While To
Stay
Everybody Loves My Baby
I'm going to sit right down
Ja-Da
Chinatown, My
Chinatown
Pennies From Heaven
Alexander's Ragtime Band
All Of Me
Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen
I Can't Give You
Anything..
Muskrat Ramble
Bill Bailey
Ain't Misbehavin'
Yes Sir That's My Baby.
Big Butter And Egg Man
At The Jazzband Ball
Glory of love.
Darktown Strutters Ball
Georgia On My Mind
Doctor Jazz
My Blue Heaven
I'm Confessing ...
Ice Cream

For a demo CD or further
information contact:-

Martin Jones
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Chandlers Ford,
Hampshire SO53 2DH

Tel. 023 8026 9508
Email.
jazzband@clara.net

To find out more and
where we are playing visit
our website:-
www.acousticjass.co.uk

A Few More Tunes in our Repertoire

If you have any tunes that you would like us to play please ask,

After You've Gone
Ain't She Sweet
Apex Blues
April showers
At Sundown
Avalon
Baby Won't You Please Come Home
Babyface
Ballin' The Jack
Basin Street Blues
Beale Street Blues
Black and Blue
Blue Turning Grey Over You
Blueberry Hill
Blues My Naughty Sweetie
Bourbon Street Parade
Buddy Bolden's Blues
Bye Bye Blackbird
China Boy
Crazy rhythm
Creole Love Call
Dinah
Down By The Riverside
Exactly like you
Fidgety Feet
Five Foot Two Eyes of blue
Hindustan
Honeysuckle Rose
I ain't going to give..none o' this jelly roll
I Got Rhythm
I Wish I Could Shimmy Like Sister Kate
I've Found A New Baby
If I Had You
Indiana
Isle Of Capri
Is it true what they say about Dixie?
It don't mean a thing if it ain't got swing
It had to be you.
Jazz Me Blues
Just A Closer Walk With Thee
Lady Be Good
Lazy River (Up A)
Mack the knife
Making Whoopee
Marching Through Georgia
Margie
Maryland
My Monday Date
Old Rugged Cross
(It's) Only A Shanty In Old Shanty Town
On The Sunny Side Of The Street

Panama
Please Don't Talk About Me...
Rosetta
Royal Garden Blues
Running Wild
Savoy Blues
Sheik Of Araby
Shine
Some Of These Days
Someday sweetheart
South
Squeeze me. (Waller)
St Louis Blues
Strutting With Some Barbeque.
Sugar (That Sugar Baby Of Mine)
Sunday
Sweet Georgia Brown
Sweet Lorraine
Sweet Sue
Tiger Rag
Tin Roof Blues
Tishomingo Blues
Too Busy
Treasure Island
Up A Lazy River
Undecided
Wabash Blues
Way Down Yonder In New Orleans
Weary Blues
When The Saints Go Marching In
When You & I Were Young Maggie
When You're Smiling
World Is Waiting For The Sunrise
Wrap Your Troubles In Dreams.
You Took Advantage Of Me



Acoustic Jass in Formal 20's Dress