



Solton Manor Band Performance Contract (Artist Performance Agreement)

Couple's Names:	
Event Date:	
Supplier/Performer Name:	
Company Name (if different, e.g. through an agency):	
Mobile Contact Number:	
Email Address:	
Website:	
Social Media Handles:	



Planning on booking a local musician, DJ and/or band for your wedding or event at Solton Manor?

At Solton Manor, we love nothing more than seeing a dance floor full and alive with music — from live bands and singing waiters to DJs, singers, and acoustic sets. We warmly welcome external entertainment and know how important it is for couples when creating the perfect atmosphere for their wedding.

However, as a wedding venue with neighbours, we are bound by both our licence and our commitment to protecting the environment around us. For this reason, we have a sound limiter set at 90dB and specific guidelines to ensure every celebration is both unforgettable and respectful.

This agreement is designed to help you, musicians, bands, DJs, and performers get the very best from the space while ensuring your music plays smoothly all night.

Please note: At Solton Manor we understand that every couple wants a unique wedding. These guidelines are designed to protect our venue, our licence, and your celebration. If you have something different in mind, please don't hesitate to contact us — we'll always do our best to find a solution that works for everyone.



1. Playing music outside

Our licence allows amplified music in only designated areas on the estate, these include:

- Godric's Garden
- Finet's Woodland
- The Old Stables
- The Dutch Barn

If you would like music played during your drinks reception, in front of the Manor House, you're very welcome to have non-amplified music.

Think acoustic sets or string quartets for an elegant atmosphere. If you have a particular plan in mind, just chat to our team and we'll guide you through what's possible.

2. Sound Limiter

Sound Limiter – Traffic Light System

Solton Manor is equipped with a sound limiter set to a maximum of 90 decibels (dB). This cannot be altered.

The limiter works on a traffic light system:

-  **Green** – Safe levels
-  **Amber** – Approaching the maximum threshold
-  **Red** – Limit exceeded. Power will automatically cut to the performance area, pausing music and lights immediately.

Sound limiters are essential for:

- Controlling noise pollution
- Complying with licensing laws
- Preserving the tranquillity of the estate
- Respecting the comfort of our neighbours

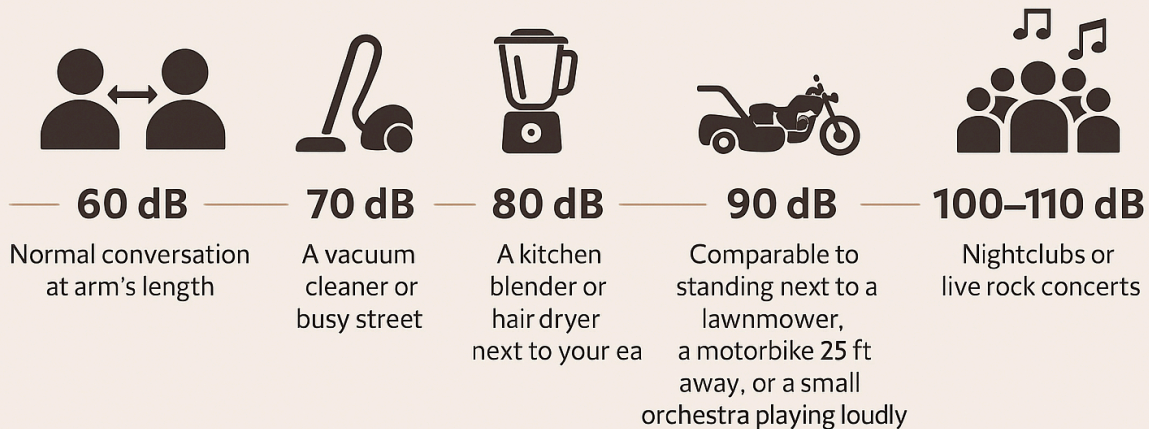
At 90 dB, music at Solton Manor is still plenty loud enough for a buzzing dance floor and energetic live performance, but without breaching our licence or disturbing those around us.



2.1 How loud is 90 decibels (dB)?

- **60 dB** – normal conversation at arm's length
- **70 dB** – a vacuum cleaner or busy street
- **80 dB** – a kitchen blender or hair dryer next to your ear
- **90 dB** – comparable to standing next to a lawnmower, a motorbike 25 ft away, or a small orchestra playing loudly
- **100–110 dB** – nightclubs or live rock concerts

How Loud is 90 dB?



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**SOLTON
MANOR**

At **90 dB**, music at Solton Manor is plenty loud enough for a buzzing dance floor and energetic live performance, but without breaching our licence or disturbing neighbours.

1.2. Why do bands sometimes ask to go louder?

Bands are used to playing in clubs or festivals where volumes often reach 110–120 dB. At weddings, however, the atmosphere comes not just from the volume but from the performance, song choices, and crowd interaction. At 90 dB, your band or DJ will still get everyone dancing, singing, and celebrating.

1.3. What type of music works best?

Almost everything! From high-energy party bands to acoustic duos, DJs, or string quartets. Some suppliers are particularly experienced with sound limiters — please see our [trusted suppliers page](#) and type *band* or *musician* in the search bar.

1.4 Will this affect our party?

Not at all. We've hosted hundreds of weddings with unforgettable live entertainment. By working with your band or DJ at soundcheck, we make sure the levels are perfect for both dancing and compliance.

1.5. Smarter Sound Planning

To work smoothly within the 90 dB limit, we recommend:

- Talking to us before booking a band that has not played at Solton Manor before, so we can contact them and discuss their needs.
- Considering acoustic or smaller ensembles, which naturally produce lower sound levels.
- Using alternatives such as electric drum kits or brush sticks in place of traditional drums.
- Bassists using DI boxes to better control low frequencies that can trigger the limiter.



3. Stage-Only Performances

Unless otherwise agreed, such as Singing Waiters, all entertainment must remain on the **designated stage area only**. Amplifiers, instruments, or performers cannot perform from the floor or other parts of the venue. This ensures performances stay within the sound limiter's calibrated zone.

**Ensure
performance
volume
remains below
90 dB**



90 dB



4. Supplier Responsibilities

- Ensure performance volume remains below 90 dB.
- Cooperate fully with a soundcheck on arrival.
- During their performance adjust equipment and sound settings to avoid triggering the limiter.
- Take responsibility for any disruptions caused by breaching this agreement.
- Bring all necessary cables, adapters, and equipment.
- Planning on putting down a dance floor, we recommend this goes down on the morning of the wedding. Where your top table goes depends on where the dance floor is or how big it is. Collection will depend on your supplier but also whether or not we have something on the day before after your wedding. Please discuss with us before making your final arrangements.

5. Pre-Event Site Visit

For bands who have not previously played at Solton Manor, we recommend attending a site visit to test sound against the limiter and review the stage layout.

6. Delivery and Set Up

If your band is due to start at 7.00pm, we recommend arriving **at least 1.5 hours before performance time** to allow for smooth unloading, set up, and sound check.

On arrival, bands should:

- **Park by the Roller Door** on the side of the Dutch Barn, ready to unload. What3words: *///stirs.argue.cackling*
- **Check in with the Duty Manager** before unloading equipment.
- **Avoid setting up during speeches** — the stage is located directly behind the top table and any noise is disruptive.
- **Complete set up and sound check after speeches**, ensuring equipment does not interfere with the bar's card readers.
- **Gear:** All music cases should be returned to your vehicle parked next to the loading bay.
- Once set up is complete, **move vehicles** to the main car park behind the Dutch Barn (The Manege Car Park) What3words *///ballparks.cone.submitted*.

If you are planning an early band performance, we strongly recommend scheduling speeches before your wedding breakfast.

7. Sound Check Clause and Payment Terminals

To ensure smooth running of events at Solton Manor, all bands and DJs are required to cooperate with a brief check of the venue's payment systems during their sound check. High-powered audio and lighting equipment can occasionally create electromagnetic interference that disrupts card readers (e.g. SumUp terminals).



- Equipment should have a UKCA label - for more information <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-ukca-marking>

- During sound check, Solton Manor staff may briefly test the venue's payment terminals to confirm they remain fully operational.
- If any interference is detected, bands/DJs agree to adjust equipment setup (e.g. repositioning speakers or cables) in collaboration with venue staff to minimise disruption.
- This process typically takes only a few minutes and will not delay sound check or performance.



8. Caring for Your Suppliers

When booking musicians, DJs, or bands, we always recommend that you:

- Carefully read their terms and conditions
- Ensure you have suitable wedding insurance in place

Most musicians will expect some form of refreshments and food during the day.

- **Drinks:** We recommend putting a tab behind the bar for your photographer, videographer, content creators, and musicians. This is usually limited to soft drinks throughout the day.
Food: Please discuss all requirements with Invicta Food Design in advance. Meals are normally served in the Old Stable, which acts as the Green Room. Don't forget to include supplier meal times in your SONAS timeline (for bands this is usually between sets).

9. Last Orders and Music Off

- **Last Orders:** 11:30pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
- **All music must stop at Midnight** (this includes live bands, DJs, and background music).
- **Musicians and crew must vacate the site between 12:30 am and 1:00 am** at the latest.



10. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to comply may result in:

- Immediate interruption or termination of your performance.
- Refusal of future bookings at Solton Manor.



11. Why These Music Measures Matter

11.1 Legal & Neighbourly Compliance:

Ensures Solton Manor operates within the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**, preventing breaches, neighbour complaints, and noise enforcement.

11.2 Licensing Conditions:

- **Approved Premises Licence** (issued by Kent County Council Registration Services) – covers civil marriage and partnership ceremonies, including approved ceremony spaces.

- **Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)** (issued by Dover District Council) – covers alcohol sales, recorded/live music, cut-off times, and late-night refreshment.
- **Environmental Health / Planning Conditions** – set sound limits, cut-off times, and restrictions to protect neighbours.

11.3 Heritage Protection:

Safeguards a **Grade II*** listed building, where excessive vibration from high-volume music could cause long-term structural damage.

11.4 Duty of Care to Guests & Staff:

Protects the wellbeing of everyone attending or working at Solton Manor. The **Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005** requires that prolonged exposure to excessive noise is avoided. Keeping music within safe levels ensures your guests can celebrate in comfort, and staff can work in a healthy environment.

11.5. Please find below a Musician Quick Reference Checklist to give to your music supplier.

11.6 Please follow this link to our recommended musicians, DJs and Bands.

12. Indemnity Clause

By signing below, you confirm understanding and compliance with Solton Manor's sound policies, ensuring a spectacular and respectful celebration for all.

Couple Signature (Printed): _____ **Date:** _____

Supplier Signature (Printed): _____ **Date:** _____

Solton Manor Representative Signature (Printed): _____ **Date:** _____

For queries, please contact the Wedding Planning Team at Solton Manor

☎ 01304 448844, ✉ info@soltonmanor.com, 📍 Solton Lane, East Langdon, Dover, CT15 5JB



Solton Manor – Musician Quick Reference Checklist

Welcome!

We're delighted to have you perform at Solton Manor. Please follow this quick guide to keep everything smooth, safe, and unforgettable.

Arrival & Setup

- ☒ Arrive 1.5 hours before start time
 - ☒ Park at Roller Door (Dutch Barn side) – What3words: ///stirs.argue.cackling
 - ☒ Check in with Duty Manager before unloading
 - ☒ Do not set up during speeches (stage is behind top table)
 - ☒ Soundcheck after speeches – staff will test card machines to ensure no interference
 - ☒ Place your cases back in your vehicle
 - ☒ Move vehicles to Manege Car Park – What3words: ///ballparks.cone.submitted
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Sound & Performance

- ☒ **Stay under 90 dB** (sound limiter will cut power if exceeded)
 - ☒ Stage-only performances unless otherwise agreed
 - ☒ Work with Duty Manager during soundcheck
 - ☒ Adjust if requested to avoid limiter issues
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Refreshments & Meals

- ✓ Soft drinks usually provided via couple's bar tab paid for the client
 - ✓ Meals to be arranged with Invitata Food Design
 - ✓ Meals served in Old Stables (Green Room) time to be agreed with the client
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Cut-Off Times

- ✓ **Last Orders:** 11:30pm (Thu–Sat)
 - ✓ **All music off:** Midnight (live, DJ, background)
 - ✓ **Vacate site:** between 12:30am–1:00am
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Quick Reminders

- 🎵 90 dB is plenty for a buzzing dance floor – please plan sets accordingly
 - 🎵 Acoustic sets or electric drums/DI boxes work best for limiter-friendly gigs
 - 🎵 Respect neighbours, heritage, and our licence – it keeps the party alive!
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☎ Duty Manager on the Day: 01304448844
📍 Solton Manor, Solton Lane, East Langdon, Dover, CT15 5JB

What3words: ///ballparks.cone.submitted