

KWJ | FAQ's

Who are you guys?

The Key West Jazz is made up of seasoned musicians from the Lawrence and Kansas City Metro areas. Sometimes a trio, usually a quartet, and occasionally more, the group started in 1996 and is anchored by Steve Westphal and John Childers. The core group includes John on saxes, Steve on Drums, Brian Baggett on guitar and Paul Miller on Bass or Ken Lovern on Hammond B3 organ. Many other local musicians play in the band on occasion. All are established, professional, capable musicians.

What kinds of music do you play?

We play mostly traditional jazz, including “straight ahead” jazz, jazz-blues, Latin jazz, and other blended genres. For weddings and other occasionals, we sometimes cross-over and play other styles for a favorite tune or two, but when you hire us, expect to hear mainly music played in a jazz style.

Why do I want to have a jazz quartet instead of a DJ or other style of music at my reception?

Honestly, if you're a big classical or rock music fan, you may not want to hire us. But, we hear from many newly married couples and others that jazz is a good middle ground for an intergenerational event like a wedding reception—a style of music everyone can enjoy during a cocktail hour and dinner, plus it's danceable later on. Also, live music creates a special celebratory atmosphere that's missing when someone's just playing cuts from CDs over a sound system (often of dubious quality).

Can I hear what the group sounds like or get a CD?

If you have a wedding reception or other event scheduled and are considering live music, or own a club or restaurant that wants to add some ambience, contact us and we'll send you the group's latest CD release and let you know where and when you can hear us live (we have a couple of venues we play at regularly).

What do you charge?

We charge a flat hourly fee for “specials” like weddings, receptions, and other private parties. For on-going club dates, we offer a discounted rate because of the added benefits of playing regularly at a single venue—mainly exposure and the ability to schedule prospective clients to hear us. Call us for our club rate.

Our specials rate is tiered by location and time:

Kansas City/Lawrence metro areas: \$250/hour (first two hours) | \$200 (each additional hour)

Outside KC/Lawrence Metro areas: \$275/hour (first two hours) | \$225 (each additional hour)

(Our rates are negotiable—talk to us—we can almost always work something out.)

The band normally plays a full hour the first set, then takes a 15 minute break, then plays 45 minutes, and so on for the duration, but we're completely flexible and very used to changing schedules.

Do you have a contract?

Yes, we have a standard contract, but prefer to work under a simple verbal agreement (we've been lucky so far)—or we can work under your contract.

How do you guys dress?

We dress to fit the occasion—let us know what you'd like—anything from Hawaiian shirts and jeans for a casual event to formal tuxes for your black tie evening.

Contact information

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