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## *Bar/Bat Mitzvah Reception Planner*

Don't worry if you don't have all of the information to complete this planner. Fill in the information you are sure about, and we will help you complete it when we get together for the planning consultation.

### Contact Information

Client name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bar (boy) / Bat (girl) (*circle one*) Mitzvah name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reception Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Setup Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Entertainment Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Order of Events

Sequence	Time	Event
		Guests Arrive
		Cocktail Hour
		Main Reception Start ( <i>guests enter main room from cocktails, if cocktails in different room</i> )
		Family Grand Entrance
		Candle Lighting
		Hora
		Kiddush
		Motzi
		Toast ( <i>make sure champagne has been poured!</i> )
		Salad ( <i>typically 25-30 minutes after Grand Entrance</i> )
		Host/Hostess Dance ( <i>followed by open dancing</i> )
		Main Course
		Guest of Honor/Parent Dance ( <i>followed by open dancing</i> )
		Dessert
		Open Dancing
		Grand Finale

*Note: The printed order of events is only a suggestion. Every reception is different, and this is YOUR reception. Any event may be added, removed, or rearranged as long as it is clearly indicated in the above table.*

**Remember to review this schedule with your caterer! '~' means approximate time.**

### Location Information

Name/address of establishment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary room name/location: \_\_\_\_\_ Floor: \_\_\_\_\_

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Do we have to provide music in other room(s) at any time (*such as for cocktail hour*)? If so, what, where and when?:

Directions to reception (*use additional sheets if necessary*):

### General Information

Number of guests:

Children:

Day School Guest of Honor attends:

Hebrew School Guest of Honor attends:

Party Theme:

Number of courses to be served (including dessert):

Does the caterer need everyone seated to take orders for the main course?      If yes, when and for how long?

Is there "dead air time" during which we shouldn't play?      When?

Tuxedo pants, shirts, and gold musical note vests are the normal outfit for MCs, DJs, and Party Motivators. Party dancers (if any) will dress in appropriate, tasteful costumes. If you wish different attire, detail preference here:

### Contact Information For Other Party Professionals

	Name	Phone	Fax	Booked From-To
Caterer				
Banquet Hall/Venue				
Planner/Coordinator				
Photographer				
Videographer				

### Cocktail Hour

Is cocktail hour in same room as main reception?      If not, what room is it in?

Music for cocktail hour (*suggested genres are soft jazz, soft show tunes, or slow rock*):

#### Reception Start (Guests enter main reception room from cocktail room)

Music to start with (*high-energy dance music recommended*):

#### Reception Grand Entrance / Introductions

Introductions can be performed by Dancemasters' MC (Master of Ceremonies), or by someone else. (*Requests to change this at the reception will only be honored if given directly by the Parents to the MC.*) Who will be performing the introductions?

Suggested order of introductions:

1. Parents (*usually introduced as Host and Hostess, Bob and Jane*)
2. Siblings
3. Guest of Honor

We recommend upbeat music. Some song suggestions follow:

- High-energy techno (*like Twilight Zone by 2 Unlimited*)
- Party Time (Gloria Estefan)
- America (Neil Diamond)
- Havana (Kenny G)
- Theme from 2001 A Space Odyssey

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Please list those to be introduced during the grand entrance in the order they will be introduced. You can choose different songs for each person or one for the entire group. *Use additional sheets if necessary. If you want, interesting tidbits of information about relationships to the guest of honor can be announced—if so, please write details below each person's name.*

<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Phonetic Pronunciation(s)</u>	<u>How to Introduce</u>	<u>Music</u>
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### Candle lighting

A memory candle for deceased relative(s) may be lit by the guest of honor. Typically this is announced by the Guest of Honor, and is done either before the first candle is announced, or before the parents' candle is announced. Alternatively, one of the candles on the cake can be lit as a memory candle—this would be announced at the time of that candle. Will there be a memory candle?

Will the MC or the Guest of Honor be calling the guests up to the cake (*circle one*)?

Include the names of people who will be coming to the cake. Write the names as the Guest of Honor calls them (like "Aunt Rose and Uncle Bob," "Bubbe and Zayde," etc.), and include phonetic pronunciation. The usual order for candle lighting is:

- |                 |                              |                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Grandparents | 5. Older relatives           | 9. Parents         |
| 2. Aunts        | 6. Younger relatives         | 10. Siblings       |
| 3. Uncles       | 7. Friends of parents        | 11. Guest of Honor |
| 4. Cousins      | 8. Friends of Guest of Honor |                    |

The usual number of candles is 14 (*13 for age, one for good luck*). Try to group relatives and friends together to keep the amount of candles to 14 as best as possible. You can have interesting tidbits of information announced as the individuals come up to light the candles. If you want to do this, please write details below each person's name.

You will also need to choose music to be played while people come up and light the candles. You can have one piece of music serve as background to all of the candles (*we have an upbeat medley of Jewish music specifically designed for this*), or you may want to match a specific song to each person or group of people lighting the candle (*preferably fun and upbeat*). The total ceremony takes about 15 minutes.

<b><u>Candle Lighting List</u></b>			
<b><u>Name(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Phonetic Pronunciation(s)</u></b>	<b><u>How to Introduce</u></b>	<b><u>Music</u></b>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

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<u>Candle Lighting List</u>			
<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Phonetic Pronunciation(s)</u>	<u>How to Introduce</u>	<u>Music</u>
11 .			
12 .			
13 .			
14 .			

### Hora

Please indicate which family members you would like to be lifted in the chair during the Hora:

### Kiddush

Who will be introduced to say the Kiddush blessing? Write the name as the Guest of Honor would, and include phonetic pronunciation.

### Motzi

Who will be introduced to say the Motzi blessing? Write the name as the Guest of Honor would, and include phonetic pronunciation.

### Toast

Who will be introduced to offer the toast to the Guest of Honor? Typically this is the father. Write the name as the Guest of Honor would, and include phonetic pronunciation.

Will there be other people offering toasts? If so, describe:

After the toast, can the MC ask “does anyone else want to say something to the Guest of Honor or offer a toast?”

After the toast, will the Guest of Honor want to say something (i.e., thank you for coming)?

### Meal

Type of music:

For buffet (*not applicable to sit down/served meal*), we can do music trivia with the guests still sitting (to win the right to go next for food). Is this OK?

While guests are waiting for food, we can encourage other couples to come out on the floor and slow dance. Is this OK with you AND the caterer?

### Host/Hostess Dance

Song for host/hostess dance (*we recommend a slow, romantic song*):

After which course (*typically after 1st course*):

You can have us invite your guests to join in partway through the above song, or we can invite them up when the next song begins. When do you want us to invite other guests to join in?

### Guest of Honor/Parent Dance

Song for guest of honor/parent dance (*we recommend a slow song, some suggestions follow*):

- Unforgettable (Dinah Washington, Natalie Cole or Nat King Cole)
- Always and Forever (Heatwave or Luther Vandross)
- Wind Beneath My Wings (Bette Midler)
- Stand By Me (Ben E. King)

After which course (*typically after main course*):

You can have us invite your guests to join in partway through the above song, or we can invite them up when the next song begins. We can have all fathers/daughters and mothers/sons join you first and invite the rest of the guests to join in one verse later, or we can invite all of the guests to join in at the same time. When and how do you want us to invite other guests to join in?

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### Grand Finale

Before the last dance, we can organize guests into a circle around the guest of honor, pass the mic around, and allow them to each offer best wishes. Do you want to do this? To what song (*we suggest That's What Friends Are For*)?

Music for last dance (some suggestions follow):

- Last Dance (Donna Summer)
- I've Had the Time Of My Life (from Dirty Dancing)
- "You're the One That I Want (from Grease) followed by "Walking On Sunshine"
- Shout (Isley Brothers)
- Times Of Your Life (Paul Anka)
- New York, New York (Frank Sinatra)
- Day-O (Harry Belafonte)

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### Games/Contests

Kids and teenagers tend to finish eating before the adults do. As the kids finish each course, we play games and contests with them to keep them occupied and allow the adults to finish eating. Listed below are some of the games/contests we are currently playing. Please circle the ones you would like us to do. You can also write in the names of other specific games or contests (*please describe them on additional sheets of paper*). If you don't identify specific contests, the MC will choose appropriate ones.

- Balloon Stuffing/Parade of Beauties
- Balloon Roulette
- Coke and Pepsi
- Cops and Donuts
- Costume Judging
- Dance Contests
- Dirty Laundry
- Don't Tip the Waiter
- Game Shows (Jeopardy, Family Feud, Trivia, etc.)
- Hot Potato
- Huggy Bear
- Hula Hoops
- Limbo
- Lip Synching
- Mummy Wrap/Best-Dressed Snowperson
- Musical Balloons/Chairs/Gifts/Hula Hoops/People
- Musical Chairs Scavenger Hunt
- Relay Races
- Remote Controlled Car/Truck Bowling
- Simon Says
- Snake
- Take a Polk at This

### Follow-Along Dances

If there are any specific dances you would like us to lead, please note them here. Here are some of the dances we are currently doing:

- Agadoo
- Blame It On The Boogie
- Car Wash
- Cha Cha Slide
- Chicken Dance
- C'mon 'N Ride It (The Train)
- Cup Of Life (Ricky Martin)
- Cotton-Eyed Joe (Rednex)
- Dollar Wine Dance
- El Tongoneo (Mestizzo)
- Electric Slide
- Get Down Tonight
- Greased Lightning
- Hands Up (from Club Med)
- Hokey Pokey
- Hold Your Head (Bahamas)
- Ketchup Dance (Las Ketchup)
- Kung Fu Fighting (Bus Stop)
- Let It Whip
- Lindy (swing)
- Macarena
- Mambo Number 5
- Maria (Ricky Martin)
- Men In Black
- Mony Mony
- Piano Man
- Play That Funky Music
- Runaround Sue
- Shout
- Staying Alive
- Swing Engine
- Turn The Beat Around
- Walk This Way (Run DMC)
- Wild Wild West (Will Smith)
- YMCA

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List Of Songs & Music Types NOT To Be Played (Use back or additional sheets if necessary)

List Of Songs To Be Played ONLY IF REQUESTED BY A GUEST (Use back or additional sheets if necessary)

Music Requests (Songs to DEFINITELY be played) (Use back or additional sheets if necessary)

Try to put only 5-10 **MUST PLAY** requests here, and list additional requests in the next section to be played if time permits. There are specific sections for music for cocktail hour, guest entrance, family entrance, candle lighting, and grand finale; do not list those songs here.

Title/Artist

Notes (specific time to play, person to dedicate to, etc.)

Do you want us to put our request cards and pens on all of the tables to make it easier for guests to make requests?

Music Requests (Songs to be played if time permits after guest requests) (Use back or additional sheets if necessary)

Also list any types/genres of music you'd like us to play from.

Setup Space Requirements (will be completed by DJ Gemini)

**Please provide this information to your venue after your planning meeting with DJ Gemini. At least two weeks before your reception, please provide DJ Gemini with copies of floor plans showing the setup of all areas of the venue you will be using.**

Main setup requires 10 feet wide by 11 feet deep, near the dance floor (if any) and power source, plus space for speakers.

Additional setups require:

Additional Notes (Use back or additional sheets if necessary)