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Rubber Soul FAQ – July 2009

How much do Rubber Soul charge? Each individual client is provided with a bespoke quote based on their function's timings, the venue's location and the date of the function. Please send us an email with as much detail about the day as possible and we'll get back to you usually on the same day.

What is Rubber Soul's availability? Send us your date and we'll see! Due to the popularity of the summer wedding season and the Christmas party season, we advise giving us as much notice as possible – 3 or 4 months as a minimum, but don't worry if you haven't got that much time – try us anyway!

How much space do you need? As much as is available – we've played some pretty small venues in the past, but please bear in mind that we are a (fairly) loud soul band, so small rooms could get a little uncomfortable but it is possible. The ideal situation is a room with a minimum floor area of 112m-squared with a raised stage measuring at least 6m wide by 3m deep. If you're in any doubt as to the suitability of Rubber Soul to your intended room then please drop us a line.

I haven't booked a DJ, do I need to? Not necessarily. We have a set of tunes that plays through our PA during our set-breaks – this playlist is designed to compliment our sets and not repeat anything we play! You can of course give us a set of Cds with your favourite tracks on them and we'll play those. That is not to say that Djs don't work really well – they can warm up the crowd for us, take requests and add that extra dimension to your evening, so if your budget will stretch to it, consider hiring one.

Can we come and see you play live before we book you? We will endeavour to make this happen, but, as the mainstay of our work is private weddings, parties and ticketed corporate events, this may be hard depending on the season. We are currently in pre-production discussions to make a live DVD of one of our bigger gigs to send to you – hopefully in the second half of 2006 this will be available to every potential client.

Do you use backing tracks or is your music all live? When we're on stage, what you hear is 100% live. In our opinion, a live band is not a live band if someone has to press "play". The only pre-recorded thing you'll hear is whatever you've chosen for your between-set material - either your choices or ours - you decide.

How far do you travel and do you include travel costs in your quote? We've been all over the place and travel as far as we need to – Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Europe...wherever. But please be aware that travel costs will be built in to the quote we give you. If your gig is in the South East UK, the travel costs will be absorbed by us.

Are there any hidden costs? No, we're very honest about things like this. If your function includes an early setup, this will incur an extra £150. If it's a unplanned late finish there will be an extra £60 per 15 minutes, but all you need to do to avoid this is tell us before we prepare your quote.

[11th November 2008 – I've just done a bit of research on the net and I'm totally astounded by what some other bands are asking for...One particularly well-known band who come up a lot at the top of a google-search for function bands etc require £150 extra PER SONG that they have to learn. They want £200 more if there are more than 6 steps or if Gravel is involved between van and venue!!!!!!!!!!!!!! My good God. We won't do this to you. We'll deal with it!

Tony]

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What needs to happen to book you? If you are interested all we need is for you to fill in a booking form that sets in stone all the details of your function. Send that back with a 20% non-returnable deposit and consider us booked.

I've heard of bands pulling out of functions at the last minute – would that happen with you? We do absolutely everything possible to avoid a situation like this occurring as it is totally against our ethos as musicians. If you have booked us, sent us your booking form and deposit we **100% committed** to turning up at your function. We have in the past helped out stricken clients who have been let down by bands, and are constantly amazed by some other groups' actions. Please rest assured that we are not going to do that to you.

What happens about a PA and lights and everything? It comes with us. The price we quote you includes our 1kW PA and lighting rig for lighting the band. Power-wise, we need a good number (let's say a minimum of 4) of 13Amp power sockets on a safe electrical supply around the area we are playing in.

I'll have lots to think about on the day itself – will you guys need anything doing on the day? Unlikely. We'll contact you in the week before the day to confirm the details you gave on your booking form. We'll sort out any problems then. Our sat-nav'ed van will find the venue without getting lost and we'll work with the staff at the venue to set-up according to their rules, leaving you free to enjoy your day.

How much time do you need to set up? In an ideal world about an hour-and-a-half from about 5 or 6pm for a 9pm gig start, but we realise that this may not always be possible. If the logistics of your function mean that we have to set up earlier so as to not disturb your guests then we will, but please note that this usually means an early setup fee of £150.

How long do you play for? We tend to perform a **pair of 50 minute or 1 hour sets**, but tell us how long you want live music for and we'll come up with a plan. We work very closely with our clients to ensure they get exactly what they want, so please feel free to tell us.

My venue is asking for Public Liability Insurance and PAT-tested equipment to be supplied by the band – Do you have this? Yes indeed. PLI covers us for any accidental damage to people or material things including the venue up to a maximum of £9 million. PAT-tested gear means that each item has been tested for electrical safety. We have certificates for each item of equipment we use.

My venue has a sound-limiter – what does this do and what does it mean for the band? Sound limiters basically measure the loudness of the sound in the room and if it goes over a certain level, all the power to the room is cut, plunging us into an eerily-quiet darkness. They are currently found in village halls and other community venues. Sadly, we tend not to take gigs in venues that have one of these things installed. We're always happy to talk to staff at the venue to see what level the limiter is set at, but you may need to look for a smaller band if you know your venue has one of these limiters. You should also note that Sound-limiters CAN be over-ridden by staff at the venue. However, they would most likely be in breach of their licensing terms if they do that. You will have to speak to your venue to negotiate directly with them BEFORE the event if you want to try to get a sound limiter turned off. Most sound limiters are set around 96dBA to 98dBA. If a venue tells you that their limiter is set to anything above 100dBA - don't believe them. It won't be set that high and it would hardly be worth having in that instance.

Do you have any specific requirements? Again, in an ideal world, a spare and secure room at the venue to get changed in and to store various bits and bobs like instrument cases is ideal. Some bottles of water and a plate of sandwiches always goes down well too. If you offer to let us join in with any catering that goes on, such as a buffet, then this may well reduce our asking price so please do let us

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know if this is possible. If there is no room available and no food, never mind, we won't hold it against you, unlike some bands!

How do we pay you? We need a 20% non-returnable deposit when you return your booking form to secure the gig. Cheque is the usual method of payment for this, although we can accept direct bank transfers if you'd prefer. Similarly, the balance is due two weeks BEFORE the event and is payable by cheque (or cash if you live nearby and want to meet us!). Rubber Soul provides receipts for each and every amount you pay us and invoices should you want them.

Do you play in any other configurations, for example can I have a 6-piece soul band? We used to sometimes work like this, but in our 8 years of playing together and taking into account our clients' feedback, a soul band without the brass isn't much of a soul band, so I'm afraid the answer is no.

Can you help us out with dinner music too? Absolutely. Typically for weddings, we can provide a dinner-music combo of anything from a solo piano up to a quintet playing jazz standards. This band is made up from players that would already be there for the main band, so it makes great financial sense for you. Very often we can provide music for the entire evening at little extra cost to you. Please email your requirements and we'll do our best to help you out.

I don't see the answer to my question here. Call Andy on 07971 665432 or Tony on 07884 075739 or email info@rubbersoul.org.uk