



TNT PRODUCTIONS

"The Soundtrack of Your Party"

As a mobile DJ, I have witnessed literally hundreds of wedding toasts in my life. Some were sweet, heartfelt, and appropriate. Others...well... notsomuch. The ones that didn't work were NOT because somebody deliberately wanted to tank the area of the reception that they were responsible for. It was because the speaker just wasn't sure how to seize an awkward moment and make it something special.

The ones that DID work all had a few common denominators. Here are five things to keep in mind if someone trusts you with this honor on their wedding day:

1. It is always best to prepare a toast to some degree- ideally in advance of the day you are to give it. No matter how confident they are in their ability to "wing it", I've never seen anybody able to improvise a "free style" toast that does the moment justice. The "Improv Toast", as I like to call it, generally rambles on, going nowhere, and never culminating to a focused thought.
2. Stand and face the audience, but address the bride and groom when appropriate.
3. Be sure to speak with the microphone directly in front of your mouth. Bestmen, sound does not emit from your navel... and Bridesmaids, you may have been taught to sing from your diaphragm, but holding a microphone there is never a good result. As a DJ, I can tell you that I can only amplify sounds that are going INTO the mic.
4. Keep a tiny set of notes of your main points in front of you on a small card, or even written on your hand. It's easy to get off track or lose your place if you are nervous.
5. NEVER. EVER. Refer to the past love interests (or even popularity with the opposite sex) of the bride or groom. NEVER. EVER. It's poor form, embarrassing, and just plain stupid.