

The Business of Playing the Accordion. . . for Money A Panel Discussion Lead by Dr. Sharon Seaton

You have just been contacted about playing accordion for an event. What will happen now?

What questions should you ask before you accept or reject the invitation?

- The date and time of the event
- Location: Address; inside or outside?
- Theme of the event
- How many people are expected to attend
- Inclement weather plans
- What should you wear?
- Are you expected to play background music, or will you be asked to play in a concert setting?
- Breaks—how often and how long
- Are you invited to eat and drink at the event
- Sitting vs. strolling
- PRICE!
- How and when can you expect to be paid

Supplies you may need for this engagement:

- Accordion
- Amplifier
- Music stand
- Sheet music
- iPad
- Playlist
- Chair or stool
- Business cards
- Extension cord
- Contact information for this gig:
- Location of engagement, name of person in charge, cell phone number
- Vehicle to transport you and your equipment to the gig
- GPS installed in your vehicle would be helpful

Are you ready to play for money? How do you know? Accordionists may have experience playing engagements for free, but if you are being paid, it is not the thought that counts!

What types of gigs are the easiest to play if you are new to playing for pay?

Types of events:

- Senior communities
- Assisted living/nursing facilities
- Restaurants
- Private parties
- Children's parties

How many ready-to-play pieces of music should you have in your repertoire?

Contracts—formal contracts vs. letters listing the agreements for this playing engagement

Especially important: Will you get paid??

Most likely that will not be a problem, but you must take precautions early, before actually playing the job!