

Appreciating your musicians – practical steps

Musicians put a lot of time into preparing sets of music and practising the tunes. Groups will make time to rehearse the music together, getting the starts and ends tidy, and agreeing moments of light and shade. This can be for any event – Club night, Tartan Night, Formal dance...

So when there's an opportunity to recognise the musicians, it's a great time to let them know that their efforts are appreciated. Here are some ways you can do this:

- **Name the Band** in your publicity. Or, if it's not a formal band, list the musicians. Dancers will often make the effort to come if there's live music.
- **Provide the programme early**, and **ask for feedback** before you publish it. This leaves time for negotiating around any particularly curly tunes.
- **Welcome the musicians** as a band, early in your event, and **thank them** at the end.
- A sound person may be part of the team, so **thank them too**. This less visible role is the one that manages volume, keeps the instruments in balance with each other, and trims the harshness out of the fiddles.
- Bow/curtsey **with the chord**. That's what it's for!
- When applauding at the end of a dance, **turn and face the band**. They are real people, not CDs.
- If you hear a set of music that you really like, **do mention it** to the musicians. It's always good to know that a set of tunes that you have worked hard on, worked for the dancers too.

A practical guide to preparing for a dance with live music, and managing it on the day, can be found on the Branch website. Look for it in the Musicians tab – Articles from the Music Adviser. You can also find articles aimed at dancers, tutors, and musicians, previously published in Kiwi News and The NZ Dancer.

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