



Moonlight Memories DJs Newsletter

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The Father-Daughter Dance from the other side of the DJ table



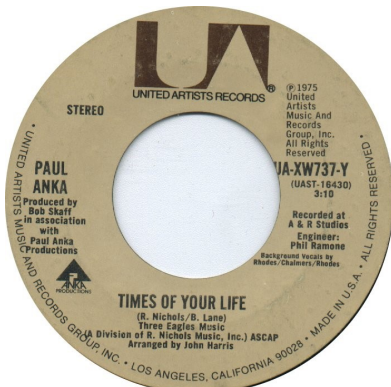
Josh Delhonney Photography

Throughout my tenure as a disc jockey I estimate that I have played at 100 weddings. Most of these have had the traditional Father-Daughter dance. Each time when I played the father-daughter dance I was focused on getting the announcement and song right, thus I gave little thought to the meaning of the dance. However, recently I was awakened to the actual meaning of the father-daughter dance when it was my daughter that was the bride and it was me that was the father.

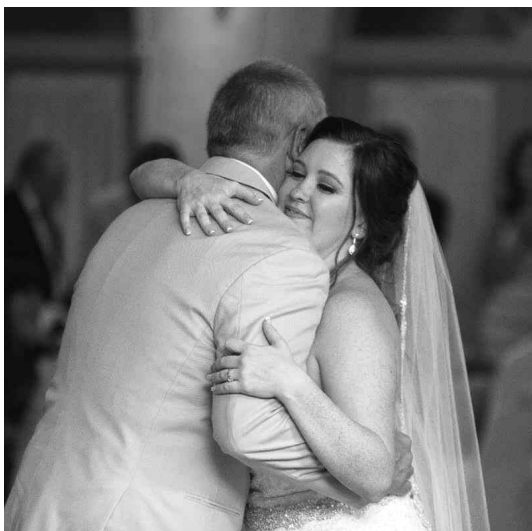
When my daughter Megan first asked me "Dad, what song are we going to dance to" ? I was speechless. I know the popular songs for the father-daughter dance and I could rattle them off in a second in a conversation with any other bride-to-be, but I absolutely froze when my daughter asked me. Our upcoming father-daughter dance would be, of course, on the dance floor just 50 feet from where I usually stand as a confident DJ behind a table at a wedding, so it should be routine for me. But I stress about the upcoming dance with my daughter.

Everything about the upcoming wedding was fine. My daughter Megan had graduated from Rutgers and had a good job. And I could not ask for a better son-in-law. But I was still stressing about the father-daughter dance. Trying to reconcile what my feelings were I saw I had three issues confronting me.

Bad Dancer - While there are bad "fast" dancers there are those whose dancing skills render them even bad "slow" dancers. That is my category. A bad dancer can usually find some camouflage on a packed dance floor. But as we know the father-daughter dance is done with no one else on the dance floor.



Continued on back page



Josh Delhonney Photography

Emotions - I was worried that I might get emotional during the dance. If I did would that really be that big of a deal for many expect the dad to be a bit emotional. While stressing about it outside one day the mail lady, as she walked up the driveway, said to me "congratulations I see your daughter is getting married". (The mail person knows a lot about you.) Then she said "you know that you are going to cry during the father-daughter dance - just accept it now".

Song Choice – I wanted the choice of song to be just right. When “working as a DJ” the song choice to me was just a quick question with the bride-to-be in our pre-wedding discussion. But now it is a major decision that was consuming me.

As the wedding approached I realized that I should focus on just enjoying the wedding. It did not matter how bad of a dancer I was or if I cried during the father-daughter dance. I was even able to come to a decision on the song choice. Although I did have to think about it for a while. When my daughter was young I always thought that "Daddy's Little Girl" by Al Martino would be our song. As she was “Daddy's Little Girl” – for when she was still in a crib and would wake up crying at night it was daddy who she wanted to come get her. I was glad to play that role no matter how tired I was. But the “Daddy's Little Girl” era is past. Now since she is grown I felt a better song would be about the passing of time and the memories that our family has had. After reviewing the popular songs I felt that "The Times of Your Life" by Paul Anka was it. The lyrics *"Good morning yesterday. You wake up and time has slipped away"* were perfect. Definitely the right song.

The wedding day arrived – and everything went fine including the father-daughter dance. All of our family and friends in one place having a great time. My wife Peggy and I agreed that it was one of the best days of our lives. Looking back I wonder why I was so stressed.

And certainly going forward when I play the father-daughter dance at future weddings I will always reflect on the meaning of this special dance.



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is a member of



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