

# The Hipcats



*Welcome to the world of The Hipcats! Hopefully the next few pages will help answer some of the questions and queries you may have, but if not, do get in touch. We love hearing from you!*



## **What do we do?**

### ***Jazz & swing***

The Hipcats play top quality jazz & swing music and are influenced by the greats such as Frank Sinatra & Ella Fitzgerald. The music includes all the classic songs from the likes of Gershwin & Porter (collectively known as the Great American Songbook) – have a look at our song list to give you an idea. We also perform songs from The Rat Pack (which included Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr) and more modern artists such as Michael Bublé. We can perform in a variety of styles from cool jazz to classic vintage to electro-swing.

### ***Latin, funk & contemporary***

As musicians we also have a love of other types of music such as latin & funk and so we add songs to the set which give a different feel and keep it fresh. We can also add more contemporary tunes which we think fit with the overall theme but which will get people dancing. Check out our song list for an idea. [Click here to go to it on the website.](#)



### ***Every night is different***

The musicians in the band are great at improvising and keep the music fresh so it is always exciting. We perform songs to suit the mood of the event – if the event is laid-back and we are background music then we will change the song to suit that, if everyone is loving the upbeat swing stuff then we will keep that going, if we spot that people want to dance to some cool latin music then we will change some of the songs into the kind of vibe. We aim to be fresh, fun and fabulous!



## ***Who are we?***

### ***Top musicians and top friends***

Every member of The Hipcats is a top musician. We are also all good friends who love what we do. We have developed The Hipcats so that there are at least three musicians for each instrument and this means we can tailor the line-up carefully to the event as some guys love the old-fashioned swing stuff a little more and others really like latin and a more contemporary feel. It also means that if someone is unavailable we can get someone else to step in easily – consequently we have never let a client down and long may that continue. We have an average age of around 35.

### ***Meet some of the band***

Nick (pictured right at the 'Skyfall' premiere) is band leader, vocalist and occasional guitarist – he is a successful producer and songwriter in his own right and has played at a variety of events including major ones such as Glastonbury festival.



Dale is one of the keyboard players, he has recently been working with Joss Stone & Beverley Knight. George has been working with Nigel Kennedy, and John once played for Ella Fitzgerald and jammed in New York with the great pianist Oscar Peterson.

On double bass we have the likes of Jon who works across the UK and Europe and Greg who has just brought his new double bass back from New York (and completed his Masters Degree in Jazz).

On drums we have the likes of Trev who is a renowned jazz drummer and Greg who has played at Glastonbury a number of times.

And in terms of horn players, we use several guys as they are always in demand due to how good they are so might not always be free for us! For example, Andy features on Noel Gallagher's recent album and has been touring with him; Gary is Kasabian's trumpet player and Sav has worked with Scissor Sisters.

## ***What options are there for line-ups?***

Solo piano – we can offer cool jazz & swing, romantic piano or even classical.

Duo – this could be with or without vocals and we perform like this at venues such as Harvey Nichols and Brasserie Blanc.

Trio – can be quiet or upbeat and with or without vocals. Typically it would be three from the following: vocals, keyboards, guitar, double bass, saxophone or trumpet.



Quartet – Without drums is more for background and with drums is if you think you would like some dancing.

Quintet – This is the most popular evening line-up – vocals, drums, keyboards, double bass, saxophone or trumpet.

Sextet – This is the big-line-up with both saxophone and trumpet – great sound!

Chat to us about what would suit you. We can even have a smaller line-up for part of the event and then add instruments as we go along.

## ***What is included in the price?***

***Top musicians and a professional service*** – we are all very experienced and take pride in our ability, professionalism and friendliness, You will have a clear point of contact with the band and we will always work with you to ensure that everything is just how you wanted it.

***All the sound equipment*** - this includes a top quality Yamaha vocal PA system which is perfect for small to medium-sized venues with up to 150 people, over that we may need to hire more equipment.

***Keyboard and amplifier*** – the keyboards we use are all top quality with completely realistic piano sounds sampled from the best pianos – you will find that most top professionals will use these – for example, the 'Nord Stage' keyboard we sometimes use costs over £2000.

***Double bass and amplifier*** – a good bass amp costs around £800 and a double bass such as the one owned by our very own Greg costs £12,000! It sounds great!

***Drums*** – we bring a top quality drum kit which can be played loud or surprisingly quietly!

***Horns*** – our horn players have a lovely collection of saxophones, trumpets and trombones – each player is a specialist in his instrument.

### ***Also***

- If required we can bring a small amount of lighting for atmosphere but if you want a light show then you may want to discuss that with the venue or chat with us and we can hire some lighting for you at an extra cost.
- We can offer facilities for background MP3 music to be played when the band aren't playing – this can be as a complimentary extra or for a small cost depending on requirements
- We can bring extra equipment for louder MP3 music to dance to but there is an extra charge for this.
- If you would like to use our sound system for speeches for up to half an hour or so then you are very welcome.
- We can help you sort out a disco and liaise with you about this – ask us about typical prices.
- We can provide a 'public liability' certificate and 'PAT test' evidence if the venue requires it.
- We usually arrive around 45 minutes prior to playing in order to set up. We check the equipment but do not do a long and noisy sound-check as we know how it sounds through experience. We typically perform a one hour set with a break of 30 minutes followed by a 50 minute set. We then pack down 10 minutes after the end of the second set and it takes around 20 minutes. We can move equipment quickly and quietly.

***What is not included in the price?*** You can discuss with us the options and cost of things like lighting, background music and a disco. Occasionally we also get asked about setting up earlier or packing up later so that guests are not disturbed. That is absolutely fine but, like any professional, each member of the band would need compensation for this time – we can give you a price for this if you need it. We are also happy with the equipment being used for background MP3 music or for speeches and this will typically be complimentary to you if it is for a short amount of time but chat with us if you would like this for longer.

**We will always email you a formal booking agreement with all the details on it.**



## ***What options for music are there?***

We have a large song list of songs we love, which we know we perform well and which we know people love listening to. Our song list puts them in broad categories and we are happy for you to tell us which ones you really like and any you hate!

We don't have a set list that we always use as every event is different. We have a very good idea of which songs will work but we find that sometimes people will be really into a specific style and we can change our set quickly to respond to this, whether everyone want to jive, do a bit of salsa, shake their booties or simply have a nice slow dance.



**The First Dance:** Ask us if there is a special song you would like us to play – you can even change the style and feel of it to suit – we have played ballads as swing tunes, swing tunes in a latin style and 80s tunes in a jazz style! We will try to accommodate but we will also be honest with you if we think that we couldn't do it justice or there is a reason why it might not work. We can perform it in a tempo to suit you and even encourage the guests to join you after a couple of minutes if you've told us you don't want to be dancing together on your own for too long!

We find that for evening events the classic jazz, swing and Rat Pack works well for the first set but in the second set people really like a little more upbeat swing, slinky latin and some groove-based tunes with a bit of funk (imagine Austin Powers meets Stevie Wonder – groovy baby!).

However, you are the boss and we will talk with you to make sure that we know the kind of thing you are looking for. We have done Rat Pack events, 1930s events, jive and electro-swing events, events for pensioners, events for students, corporate events, small restaurants and Glastonbury Festival. We can tailor what we do to you.

If you want background, we will be background. If you want upbeat we will do upbeat. If you want classic swing we will do classic swing. And if you want cool and groovy, well we are always cool and groovy! [Click here to go to the songlist on the website.](#)

## ***What do The Hipcats require from you and the venue?***

In terms of space – a duo needs about 2m x 2m and a quintet needs around 4m x 3m (a bit more is helpful). We need electricity within 2 metres of us.

We are happy to play outside but we need it to be very dry and also at least some partial shade as the equipment gets temperamental in the sun and it is hard as a musician to play in direct sunlight (wind can also be tricky too). Even at night we need to think about dew on anything electrical.

We ask for complimentary soft drinks and it makes us immensely happy if we could have at least a beer each. If there is a break of more than 20 minutes between sets then we appreciate something like crisps, sandwiches or some kind of carbohydrate to keep the energy levels up!

## ***Who is the main point of contact?***

You will have a point of contact who is usually Nick the band leader. He will also perform at most events and so will ensure that you get exactly what you wanted. The band are friendly, approachable and very professional in what they do. We want the music to fit in exactly with how you imagined the event to be. Contact Nick on 07847 999373 or [thehipcats@live.co.uk](mailto:thehipcats@live.co.uk)



## Recent Events

The Hipcats have worked with leading companies and venues across the UK including Pret a Manger, Waitrose, HSBC, Audi, Hotel du Vin, Accolade Wines, Harvey Nichols, Brasserie Blanc and many more. For example, The Hipcats were asked to provide a cool lounge duo at the Skyfall premiere. The guests were treated to canapés and cocktails as the film finished whilst The Hipcats provided some suitably smooth jazz on a stage amongst the roulette tables.



Lead singer, Nick, on the red carpet.

We have also played some fabulous events for some lovely people over the last year. Below are just a few comments we have received recently.

*I just wanted to say thanks to you and the band for the other day. You guys created a brilliant atmosphere all afternoon and everyone had a great time. I just wish it hadn't passed so quickly! Cheers, Matt.  
(Marquee Wedding - Hilperton, Wiltshire – September 2013)*

*Thank you so much for the music you performed at our wedding; your trio were even better than we had hoped. We loved the warm atmosphere you created and were seriously impressed by both your talent and professionalism. Your work was one of the most commented on features of our day: many guests loved your sound and personality. Kindest regards Heather and Guillaume Kerboul  
(Wedding – The Rectory Crudwell – September 2013)*

*I hope you're well. I just wanted to drop you a quick email to say thank you for playing at our wedding. So many people came up to us throughout the day and said how fab you were and how perfect it was having you play with everyone out on the lawn. I hope you guys enjoyed it as much as well did, it was absolutely perfect. Best wishes, Laura. (Wedding - The Compleat Angler, Marlow – September 2013)*

*Just a quick email to say many thanks for your fantastic performance at our wedding at Cardiff Castle on the 12 October 2013. We had a brilliant day and your band finished it off perfectly. All of our guests commented on the high standard of your music and the selection of songs that were delivered. Melanie and I are particularly thankful that you were able to provide us with a steady 'Moon River' for our first Waltz. I do hope that we get the chance to see you perform again. Thank you again. Best Wishes, Andrew and Melanie (Wedding - Cardiff Castle - October 2013)*

*You guys were brilliant - what a fantastic atmosphere.  
Ella Charles - Graduate Recruitment - HSBC  
(HSBC Christmas function - Canary Wharf - December 2013)*

*Where to start! Thank you so very much for making my 21<sup>st</sup> a night to remember. I have heard nothing but compliments about The Hipcats! The music you played created such a fantastic atmosphere, until my heart nearly stopped when I thought I was sitting down for dinner when I suddenly got hoisted up to dance to Mambo No. Jessica! In hindsight this was the highlight of my night! A big thank you for playing Glenn Miller's 'In the Mood'; we all very much enjoyed it! Who needs a DJ and Disco when you have The Hipcats .... If you ever find yourself free and bored you are more than welcome to come back and sing for me. A huge thank you to yourself and all your band, I could not have asked for more perfection. I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and New Year!  
With love, Jess  
(21st Birthday - Marquee – Chewton Mendip – December 2013)*

*F\*\*\*\*\* superb!!!! Loved it! I especially listened out to the horn parts on 'Superstition' and you didn't miss one. Brilliant!  
Luke  
(Wedding - Hilton, Southampton - December 2013)*