

# Wedding Audio Visual at Breenhold Gardens

by Lee Wright



Congratulations on choosing Breenhold Gardens for your wedding. This guide has been put together to help you get a great audiovisual experience on your special day.

## What Type of PA System Do You Need?

This really depends on the requirements of your particular event. There are 4 main PA types you could use:



The Chiayo Stage Pro Portable PA System

### 1. Portable PA System

A battery powered portable PA is the simplest system. They often consist of a single speaker mounted on a stand with a wireless mic and an iPod/laptop socket. These are primarily for speech but can do light background music. Battery life is between 4-6 hours. They can also be plugged into mains power if available. A single speaker in a marquee will cater for around 60-80 people. If you're planning a wedding with an outdoor ceremony these systems are very popular. They can be easily moved into the marquee for speeches during the reception.



Vocal PA System

### 2. Standard Vocal PA System

This usually consists of a pair of powered speakers and a separate mixer. They generally come with a wired microphone but a separate wireless microphone can be added. They have considerably more power than a portable and a pair will cater for up to 200 people.



Dance Music PA - Bose 802 speakers with MB4 subs for 200 person wedding

### **3. Dance Music PA System**

This can handle speech well but has the capacity to handle louder dance music. It includes sub speakers for extended bass.



Band PA System

### **4. Live Music PA System**

This is simply a vocal PA that has extra facility for musicians and singers. The main difference is that it has a “monitor” or “foldback” speaker. Monitors are designed particularly to allow singers to hear themselves so they can pitch correctly. Even a skilled performer can struggle when they can’t hear themselves.

## **What Size PA Do You Need?**

A good rule of thumb is to use watts-per-person. For a speech only PA you want about 1 watt per person. For example if you have 100 guests then you’d want a 100 watt speaker system. For dance music you need around 3 watts per person and for live music with drums and bass and drums around 5 watts per person. Most powered speakers these days are at least 250 watts each.

## **Powering Your PA System**



The Roland BA-55 Battery Portable PA

Breenhold doesn’t have mains power so it’s important to plan accordingly. There’s a few options:

### **Battery Powered PA**

This is a nice simple option if your requirements are modest.



Battery and Inverter

### **Battery and Inverter**

This can run a PA longer than a portable but is still mainly for speech and background music systems rather than live or dance music. The benefits are that it’s completely silent and can run other audio equipment such as CD players or mixers.



The Yamaha EF2000iS 2kVa Silenced Generator

### **Generator**

With generators you need to be conscious of two things, Power rating and noise. Carefully work out how much power you'll need and make sure the generator has enough capacity. Standard generators can be very noisy and ruin the atmosphere of the event. Make sure you get a silenced one. Yamaha and Honda make some good models if you only need something small. If you're planning to power other appliances such as lighting & cooking then you may need quite a large generator up to 20kVa.



20 kVa Generator

### **How Much Power Do You Need?**

Consider what other electrical loads might exist during the event. For example at one recent marquee event a good sized generator was used. During testing it was fine but when the caterers started using they're cooking equipment it started having problems. Remember a standard extension lead can only handle 10 amps. A good sized PA will draw about 4 amps. An electric frypan will draw 10!

### **Safety Tips**

- Avoid running cables across walkways, they can be a tripping hazard. Use cable covers if needed.
- Make sure all electrical equipment and cabling is kept dry.
- Make sure any speaker stands are stable with the legs fully extended. We often tie the stands to the frame of the marquee.

### **General PA Tips**

- Use a foam windshield on the microphones to prevent wind noise.
- Think carefully about speaker placement. Make sure not to place speakers right behind microphones to avoid feedback (high pitched squealing noise).
- If using a separate mixer, it's best to locate it a good distance back from the speakers. Make sure you have enough microphone cable and speaker cable.
- For music playback the most popular method now days is to create play lists on an iPod, iPad or laptop. Make sure you have your play lists well labelled and burn a backup copy to CD.

## Video Projection

It's become popular to use a projector at weddings to display:

- Pictures of special times the couple has spent together.
- Family or humorous photos.
- Illustrations for speeches.
- Video messages from those who can't be with them such as those overseas.



If you want audio with your video presentation you'll need a 3.5mm jack to 6.5mm jack to connect to your mixer. If your video device (eg laptop or DVD) is more than about 3 metres away you'll want a DI box & microphone cable to avoid hum. You'll need to decide in advance if you want to locate your laptop next to the projector or next to the mixer. If next to the projector you'll need a long enough VGA cable. Be aware that PC laptops have either VGA or DVI connectors. Macs also have 2 different connectors so make sure you have the right adapters.



## Dance Lighting

You may want to organise for some lighting for any dance time. Coloured LED lights are a popular option. Many have built in chase patterns that can be activated in time with the music. Make sure you can dim your house lighting during the dancing.



I hope you've found this guide useful. If you need someone to take care of your audiovisual needs then just give me a call. There's also a special offer attached below.

Lee Wright, Sydney PA Hire, Ph 0418 407 733, [www.sydneyhire.com](http://www.sydneyhire.com)

**See special offer below**



**Special Offer for Breenhold Gardens Customers on  
Top Quality Audio Visual Equipment**

**Mention this offer to get your special price.**

Valid till 30/9/14

**Daily Hire Packages**

**PA System 1 \$345 ~~\$295~~  
Delivered & set-up**



Suits up to 100 people for speech & moderate dance music. Superb Bose sound. Just plug in your iPod/iPad or bring your CDs.

- > 2 x Bose 302A speakers
- > 1 x Bose MB4 sub speaker
- > 1 x Bose 480 watt amplifier
- > 1 x Mixer
- > 1 x Shure SM58 corded microphone
- > 2 x LED dance lights
- > CD player (if requested)

\*\$345 normal price with mileage

**Need something bigger?  
PA System 2 \$375 ~~\$350~~  
Delivered**

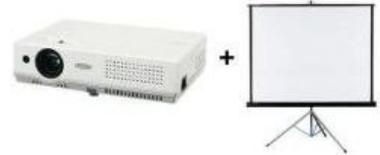


Suits up to 200 people for speech & solid dance music. Superb Bose sound. Just plug in your iPod/iPad or bring your CDs.

- > 2 x Bose 802 speakers
- > 2 x Bose MB4 sub speakers
- > 1 x Bose 1200 watt amplifier
- > 1 x Mixer
- > 1 x Shure SM58 corded microphone
- > 2 x LED dance lights
- > CD player (if requested)

\*\$385 normal price with mileage

**Projector & Screen Just \$55  
Delivered with any PA**



**SANYO**

Share those special memories with your guests. Just connect your laptop or DVD.

- > Powerful 2600 lumen projector
- > 1.8m x 1.35m 4:3 screen

\*Not HDMI \* Only available with a PA

**Roland BA-55 portable battery  
PA \$55 with any PA**



**Roland**

Suits up to 75 people for speech & live music. Great for outdoor ceremony. Includes hand held wireless mic & iPod cable.

**All systems include delivery, set-up & instruction by an experienced, friendly technician.  
Local after hours support if needed (Leura)**

**Sydney PA Hire  
West Ryde**

[www.sydneypahire.com](http://www.sydneypahire.com)

Phone: Lee on 041 840 7733 or 02 9804 8903

Email: [lee@sydneypahire.com](mailto:lee@sydneypahire.com)