



Peter Oprisko is one of the north suburban Chicago's most popular wedding singers.

A real wedding singer

By **KATHY ROUTLIFFE** | Staff Writer
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Peter Oprisko is no Adam Sandler.

More to the point, Peter Oprisko, one of the north suburban region's most popular wedding entertainers, would never try to sabotage nuptials with his performances, the way Sandler's character does in the movie "The Wedding Singer."

Instead, Oprisko spends more than 100 days of his 350-plus event calendar every year using his music and music history talents to help make romantic memories for the brides and grooms to whom he croons covers of Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, among many others.

Sandler, a suburban Chicago resident, didn't intend to become a singer, although his childhood was filled with the kind of music he would eventually perform.

"I always enjoyed the standards — Frank Sinatra, Mario Lanza and that sort of music. I always found it appealing and it had a more timeless quality to it than the music my contemporaries listened to," he said. "My friends were listening to Madonna, and I was listening to Frank."

He makes a good living, but for him remuneration is only part of the satisfaction; singing to people who love his songs comprises much of the rest. And he truly enjoys wedding performances.

When he gets calls, they can come from parents, brides and

grooms. Some will be planning for an intimate 25-guest wedding and others will be making preparations for a 1,000-person reception. Those facts will help guide his own preparations, for example, whether he'll sing with a lone piano backing him, or bring in his veteran 13-piece band.

"I ask them about the dynamics of what they're looking for, what they envision for the reception," he said. "Do they have a theme? How many people? Once I get some of this, I'm able to offer them a variety of options."

The questions about music come next.

"A lot of times they'll have specific songs they want. Usually I already have it in my repertoire, but I tell them that if I haven't done something before, I'm happy to learn it for you, especially for the first dance."

Some brides and grooms will give him carte blanche. Some will hand him a list of specific songs. And sometimes the requests can be just a tad unusual. One bride, for instance, wanted Oprisko to sing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Her guests might not get the reference, she explained, but she and her new husband would.

No matter where he plays, what he loves most is being chosen to be apart of someone's special day. "For me that's an extremely high honor and I take it very seriously."

For more information on Peter Oprisko, visit www.peteroprisko.com.