

## Q&A from the Bais HaVaad Halacha Hotline

Half Note

June 6, 2024

**Q** I observe the second half of *sfirah*. May I play music during the second half at the wedding of someone who keeps the first? If so, may I buy a new suit for the occasion?



**A** It is a matter of debate among contemporary *poskim* whether one who keeps the second half may participate in a wedding after Lag Ba'omer. The *Minchas Yitzchak* (4:84) says that he may not, but he may attend the chupah, because the main celebration is only later.

Many rely on R' Moshe Feinstein (*Igros Moshe* 1:159), who rules leniently, explaining that the wedding prohibition is solely on the *chassan* and *kallah*, and because they are permitted to marry, guests may attend. They may also attend the *sheva brachos*, even with music.

If you are a professional musician and are being paid to play at this wedding, all agree that you may do so (*Kovetz Halachos* 9:9, based on the *Pri Megadim*, who allows playing music at a non-Jewish event during the Nine Days). If you need to practice before the wedding, you may do so.

Some have the custom of refraining from purchases like a suit while observing *sfirah* (see sources in *Piskei Teshuvah* 493:3). But others point out that there is no halachic basis for this. Those who avoid it do so to acknowledge the sadness of the period, but there is no obligation, even if a *Shehecheyanu* will be recited on the new suit (*Kovetz Halachos* 8:5).