

SCENE

chicago weddings

BIZ MURPHY & CHRISTOPHER KEISER

August 22, 2015

Saddle & Cycle Club

Photography by Kina Wicks

THE COUPLE High school sweethearts Biz Murphy and Christopher Keiser proved their commitment early on by staying together through their college years despite studying at two different universities. Post-academia, the pair moved back to Chicago, and it wasn't too long before Christopher proposed while on a family vacation at Biz's parents' lake house in New Buffalo, Mich.

THE DETAILS The pair made things official 13 months later with an outdoor wedding at Saddle & Cycle Club. The processional was set to a string quartet rendition of Arcade Fire's "Wake Up" before Biz walked down the aisle in a gorgeous Vera Wang gown.

THE PARTY The couple wanted to make the reception feel as though guests were up in Michigan by their family lake homes while still having a Chicago vibe, so the room was bathed in pale blue and white coupled with a variety of neutral florals. Perhaps one of the most memorable gifts the newlyweds received was a pair of first-class plane tickets to Hawaii—courtesy of Biz's sisters—where they basked in tropical luxury at the St. Regis Princeville and Four Seasons Resort Maui. —RT



Clockwise from top: Christopher and Biz dreamed of a casual outdoorsy wedding with urban refinement; HMR Designs combined white florals and greenery in metallic vases to create naturally elegant centerpieces; Biz poses with her bridesmaids, who wore their own dresses. "I wanted each of them to shine in their own way," says Biz.



What We Learned

"Take advantage of the time you have to connect with guests at the rehearsal dinner. This allowed us to work the remainder of the room on the wedding night without having to stop at every table," says Biz.



From above: Elysia Root Cakes created a textural chocolate-and-vanilla cake with fresh blooms; the couple's adorable nieces and nephews charmed as flower girls and ring bearers, donning flower crowns and miniature Ralph Lauren suits.

WEDDING RESOURCES

Venue Saddle & Cycle Club, saddleandcycle.com
Planner Estera Events, esteraevents.com
Flowers & Decor HMR Designs, hmrdesigns.com
Bride's Gown Vera Wang, verawang.com

Groom's Suit Ralph Lauren, ralphlauren.com
Invites Sarah Drake Design, sarahdrakedesign.com
Cake Elysia Root Cakes, elysiarootcakes.com
Music The Chicago Players, goldcoasteventschicago.com
Videographer Epic Motion,

epicmotion.com
Hair & Makeup Hair: Your Stylist AJ, yourstylistaj.com; Makeup: Andie Cumber, andiecumber.com
Linens BBJ Linen, bbjlinen.com
Favors Custom matchbooks, Magnificent Milestones, magnificentmilestones.com

KATIE GAMBLE & CONNOR FLEURY

September 5, 2015

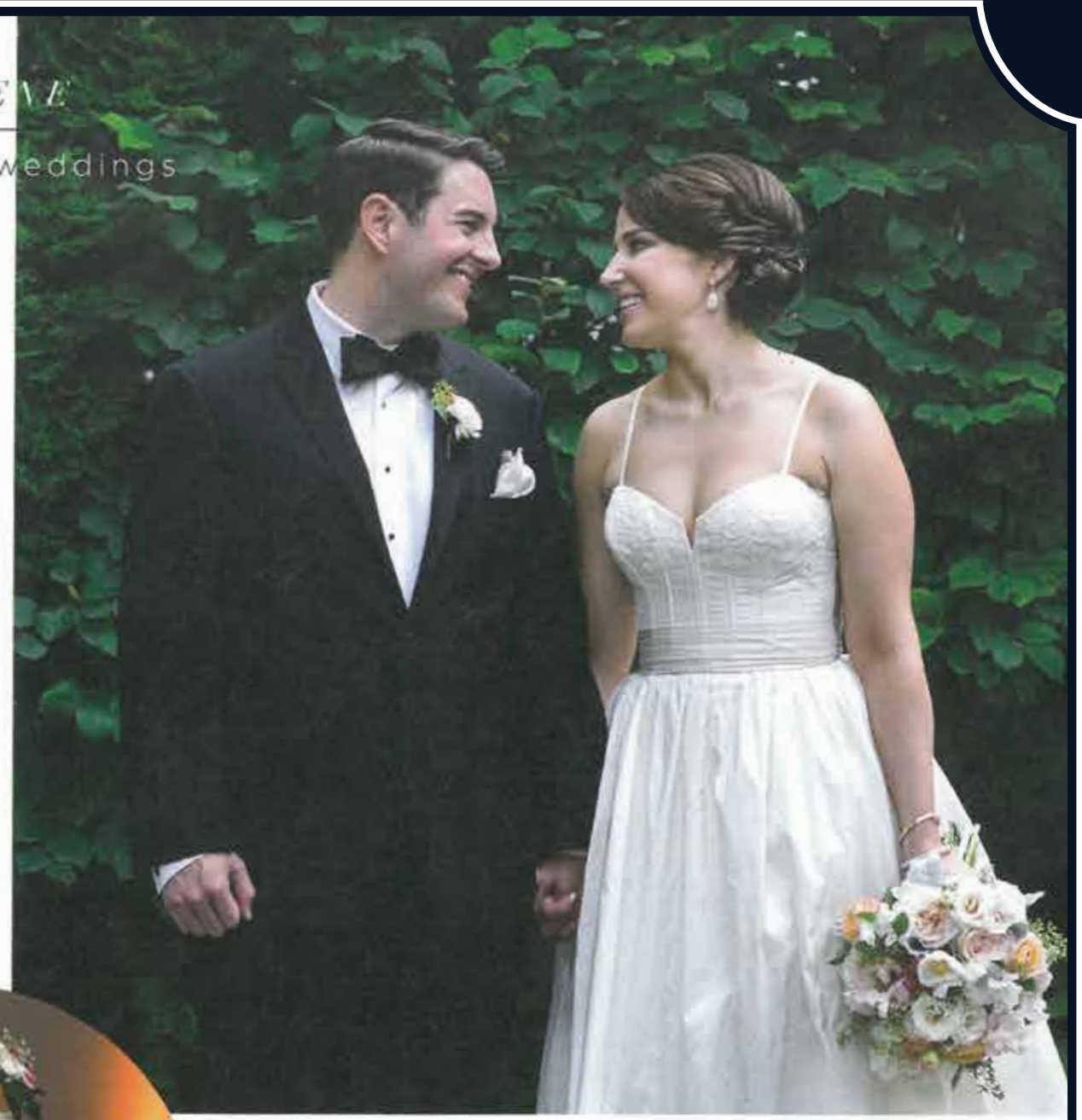
Chicago Illuminating Company

Photography by Kent Drake Photography

THE COUPLE Neither Katie Gamble nor Connor Fleury had been to Four Farthings before, but they fortuitously wound up there at the same time. "I had just come from a wedding and was in cocktail attire, and Connor had just finished moving and was grabbing beers with friends in a T-shirt and shorts," says Katie. Three years later, Connor proposed at Le Bouchon, and then the couple celebrated with friends at Four Farthings, where it all began.

THE DETAILS LK Events and HMR Designs brought a color palette of blush, gold, champagne and gray to life at Chicago Illuminating Company. "We wanted it to feel very urban and reflective of the great city of Chicago. The space used to be a power plant. Even the ceremony was urban—you could hear the L train going by!" says Katie.

THE PARTY Following the courtyard ceremony, Blue Plate Catering (where Katie works as catering sales director) served up a creative Caesar bundle of romaine hearts tied with a chive ribbon, pepper-crusted New York strip and mini twice-baked Wisconsin cheddar potatoes. Gentlemen of Leisure Band got the party started and kept it going until Katie and Connor were sent off on an 11-night Alaskan cruise. —Anna Dunn



From above: Katie and Connor share a moment in the courtyard of Chicago Illuminating Company; the bride's cousin baked a rustic multitier vanilla cake topped with pink and blush blooms and greenery.



Clockwise from above: HMR Designs combined lush florals in shades of pink with vibrant greenery to create the bride's fresh bouquet; Connor looked dapper in a Vera Wang tuxedo with coordinating gray-and-blush pocket square; the room glowed with towering crystal votives and fluffy arrangements of baby's breath.

What We Learned

"Communicate! Make sure you express your priorities for the wedding to each other. It will make planning easier. And always have a bottle of wine on hand for those stressful planning moments!" shares Katie.



WEDDING RESOURCES

- Venue** Chicago Illuminating Company, chicagoilluminatingcompany.com
- Planner** Lauren Knuepfer Rozum, LK Events, lkeventschicago.com
- Flowers & Decor** HMR

- Designs**, hmrdesigns.com
- Bride's Gown** Amsale, Nordstrom Wedding Suite, nordstrom.com
- Bride's Shoes** Jimmy Choo, Nordstrom, nordstrom.com
- Groom's Tux** Vera Wang, Men's

- Wearhouse**, menswearhouse.com
- Invites** Magnificent Milestones, magnificentmilestones.com
- Catering** Blue Plate Catering, blueplatechicago.com
- Music** Gentlemen of Leisure Band,

- gentlemenofleisureband.com
- Linens** BBJ Linen, bbjlinen.com
- Hair & Makeup** Brian Sutherby, Muse Beauty Bar, briansutherby.com
- Photo Booth** ShutterBooth, shutterbooth.com