



Guests were served a shaved vegetable salad, followed by their choice of grilled Chilean sea bass on an asparagus raft, grilled skirt steak with Yukon Gold potatoes, or asparagus ravioli. As a nod to the couple's sweet tooth, a trio of desserts was offered in addition to a cake iced in fondant with a subtle pattern of basket weave. The film theme continued with a fantastic spin on the typical candy buffet usually offered to guests as favors. "We treated our guests to a 'concession stand' with different flavors of gourmet popcorn and old-fashioned candy," says Laurie. White take-home bags were labeled with an iconic quote from *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

The evening ended with everyone on the dance floor, the couple's loved ones celebrating together. "I still remember getting teary-eyed during the hora when I looked around and saw both families with their arms linked, dancing around the circle as if we had all been participating in this tradition for years," Laurie reminisces. "To see two sets of families and friends welcome one another so openly and joyously was truly a magical moment."

MARILYN OLIVEIRA



A multi-course sit-down dinner was followed by the presentation of the pair's towering wedding cake. Composed of seven stacked tiers iced in ivory fondant and swirled with gilded accents, the cake was draped in clusters of ivory roses and featured bands of gold between each tier. An after party overseen by a DJ followed hours of dancing to a nine-piece ensemble. Guests exited the night in receipt of favors that reflected Kelley and Colin's affection for wine. "We filled sheer ivory wine bags with bottles of Contrada del Santo, Uva di Troia/Merlot blend," Kelley describes. Each favor had a tag with the couple's monogram on one side and a special message on the other.

Planning as much in advance as possible and hiring a coordinator are the two pieces of advice the pair recommends most. "We started planning a week after we got engaged," asserts Colin, who split the tasks evenly with his bride. However, both the bride and groom wish to impart the importance of stepping back throughout the day to take in the wonder of the experience. "Plan a couple brief intervals to enjoy watching the celebration from a secluded area," advises Colin. "We were able to step aside once, but it's just not enough when you put months of effort into planning such a phenomenal day." **MARILYN OLIVEIRA**



MELISSA MELSHENKER & JEFFREY ACKERMAN

AUGUST 28, 2010 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY KINGENSMITH

SUGAR AND SPICE

What do an orthopedic surgeon from South Detroit, a lawyer from Chicago, and Beyoncé have in common? Evidently enough to encourage Jeffrey Ackerman to propose to Melissa Melshenker sooner rather than later. “I was offered a residency position back near my hometown in Michigan, and Melissa told me to put a ring on her finger and she’d come, too,” Jeffrey reminisces. “This was right after the song ‘Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)’ became a hit, and Melissa liked to sing it to me all the time. I wanted her to come with me to start our life together, so I followed Beyoncé’s advice.”

Reflecting warmth and friendship in the details of their stunning black-and-white wedding was of utmost importance to Melissa and Jeffrey. The bride was a vision as she made her debut in an elegantly frothy A-line gown and floor-sweeping flower-trimmed veil. Rhinestones encircled the stems of her cascading bouquet and picked up on the sparkle of her crystal-embellished belt. However, Melissa’s entrance wasn’t the only one that caused a stir; her groom glided down the aisle to the song “Eye of the Tiger,” raising his arms in the air like a championship fighter. “It was a huge hit!” Jeffrey happily recalls.

Bridal Gown
Christos for Amsale

Bridesmaids
Lazaro

Consultant
Reva Nathan & Associates

Entertainment
Ken Arlen Orchestra

Floral Design
Ronsley Special Events

Formalwear
Giorgio Armani

Jewelry
Cartier
Ehrlooms

Mother's Gown
Oscar de la Renta, MOB

Photographer
KingenSmith

Registries
Bed Bath & Beyond
Bloomingdale's
Neiman Marcus
Williams-Sonoma

Rentals
Chameleon Chair Collection
Classic Party Rentals

Shoes
Manolo Blahnik - bride
Nike - groom

Veil Designer
Toni Federici

Venue
Four Seasons Hotel Chicago

Videographer
Rob Gordon



Guests were seated in elegant Chameleon chairs on all four sides of the chuppah for the couple's modern Jewish ceremony. "It made everyone feel like they were an integral part of the ceremony," Melissa asserts. Bridesmaids were attired in elegant black-and-white gowns, coordinating with the groomsmen who were clad in black as well. "I had Nike Dunks custom made in black patent leather for both of our dads and all my groomsmen," Jeffrey laughs. "They looked like leather tuxedo shoes!"



