



Guests enjoyed a sit-down dinner that included locally grown food and beverages to honor Hannah's father, who is a farmer; in fact, many of the ingredients were harvested from his farm. Courses were served in between dance sets, to break up the dinner and ensure guests were having fun. "It kept the energy high throughout the night," Luke confirms. A performance by a Jersey Boys tribute band completed an evening the groom describes as "an experience to remember."

Although their exhilarating wedding left them almost too exhausted to leave for their honeymoon the next day, Hannah and Luke say they would not change a thing. "It was special to





have all of my friends from different life stages together and bonding," Luke says.

They agree that the key to an unforgettable wedding day is to remain close by your new spouse's side. "Never let go of your husband's hand throughout the wedding day and night. Your wedding day is incredibly important for the two of you and you want to remember it as a couple," Hannah confirms. Luke reassures couples that any wedding jitters will fade as the feeling of love and support from friends and family fill the air. "On the wedding day, all of the stress goes away and everyone is so happy for you," Luke declares. "It was all perfect." ERIN MIGDOL







Fourteen bridesmaids wearing pale pink gowns preceded the bride. Dana, wearing a stunning strapless gown embellished with lace and beaded detail, walked down the aisle to her parents' wedding song. The bride carried an abundant arrangement of dreamy white and cream English garden roses, peonies, and fragrant sweet peas wrapped with a silk ribbon and fastened with crystals. The groom admits watching his bride walk down the aisle was one of his favorite scenes of the day. "To think that she was about to officially be my wife was the best," Jimmy shares. "She looked absolutely beautiful and everything about that moment was absolutely perfect."

For the reception, guests found their escort cards at a round table

with an impressive floral arrangement of blooms in pale yellow, blush, and cream complemented by lush greenery. Round and rectangular tables were decorated with gorgeous blends of flowers in muted tones and soft candlelight. Place settings included fine china atop silver charger plates, crystal glassware, custom napkins, and personalized menu cards. The focal point of the room was the dramatic floral display suspended from the ceiling. "There were so many small details in the room that all together made the place so spectacular," describes the bride. "It was like a magical, elegant garden." Jimmy could not agree more: "Our reception room was the most beautiful room I have ever seen in my life."





After a scrumptious sit-down dinner service and slices of vanilla cake with fillings of raspberry, vanilla, and hazelnut (“which was fantastic!”), the couple was ready to hit the dance floor. “We love to dance and enjoy ourselves, so it was a must that everyone was on the dance floor!” says Dana. The band was so terrific, in fact, that Dana and Jimmy even got on stage a couple of times. “They do not just play music, they play it perfectly,” says the groom. “The dance floor was so occupied and guests were thoroughly entertained.”

Before guests were shuffled into the after-party area, they were gifted with personalized rosé wine bottles and boxes of bagels from a hit eatery that





offers bagel balls with a variety of custom cream cheese fillings. “They are absolutely delicious!” confirms the bride.

The couple agrees that their wedding planning – and big day – couldn’t have gone any smoother. The bride advises others to consider the little things: “Our guests loved all of the minor elements and how all of the details matched perfectly with our wedding invitations, which brought together the whole design.” Concludes Dana of the magical celebration, “It was a dream come true for Jimmy and me, and I definitely would have not wanted it any other way.”

NICOLE PALACIOS









# A BLESSED DAY

JENÉE L. MOORE & GERALD S. PADMORE

August 3, 2013 Washington, D.C. | Photographed by Davide DePas

Jenée Moore only needed 140 characters to get the attention of her future husband, Gerald Padmore. The couple met at a networking meeting for a group of young professionals, and hit it off when Jenée volunteered to write a tweet for Gerald

promoting the event. While chatting at the social afterwards, Jenée and Gerald realized they had something else in common, in addition to their fondness for the organization. As it so happened, the two lived around the corner from each other!



## RESOURCES

### Beauty

Ansylla Ramsey for My Hairtage - hair  
Carl Ray for George at Four  
Seasons Salon - makeup

### Bridal Gown

Prina Tornai for Kleinfeld - ceremony  
Reem Acra - reception

### Bridal Salon

Kleinfeld Bridal; Love Couture Bridal

### Bridesmaid Gowns

Monique Lhuillier

### Cake

Sylvia Weinstock Cakes Ltd.

### Catering

RSVP Catering

### Consulting/Event Design

Events by Andre' Wells

### Entertainment

Nolan Williams Choir for  
NEWorks Productions - ceremony  
Élan Artists - reception  
MC Lyte - reception

### Floral Design

Amaryllis

### Headpiece/Hair Accessories

Love Couture Bridal

### Invitations/Calligraphy

Hannah Handmade

### Lighting Design

Atmosphere, Inc.

### Linens

Nüage Designs; Resource One Inc.  
Wildflower Linen

### Photography

Davide DePas

### Registries

Bloomingdale's; Crate and Barrel

### Rentals

Classic Party Rentals  
Chameleon Chair Collection  
DC Rental; Design Foundry

### Shoes

Gucci; Salvatore Ferragamo

### Veil

Peter Langner

### Venue

Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium -  
reception

### Videography

Blue Sky Films







With a guest list of 430 loved ones, the couple based their choice of locations on the venues' ability to hold a large number of guests while maintaining a sense of elegance. After settling on a color scheme of aubergine and gold, and expressing their desire for a "unique, elegant, regal, and jaw-dropping" ceremony and reception, the couple let their wedding planner take control of the event's design. "It was a complete surprise to us when we arrived," Jenée reveals.

The ceremony venue, the storied Dunbarton Chapel at Howard University School of Law, was festooned with bunches of ivory and champagne roses wrapped with gold ribbon, perfectly complementing the chapel's stained-glass windows. Bridesmaids walked down the aisle dressed in flowing strapless gowns in violet and taupe, and each



“I never in my wildest dreams expected the event to be as epic as it was.”



carried a monochromatic bouquet of either purple or fuchsia blooms. The bride was radiant in a ruched Pnina Tornai gown accented by a sparkling sapphire pendant. Throughout the Christian ceremony, an eight-person choir filled the chapel with passionate and soulful harmonies.

Following the ceremony, guests headed to the historic and grand Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium for the reception. Stately marble columns shone with deep purple, blue, green, and pink lighting, and delicate candles were suspended from towering trees interspersed throughout the space. Shimmering silver linens and gold-rimmed flatware topped the tables, which were each decorated with unique centerpieces: vases of ivory, champagne, and aubergine flowers in varying heights, and rectangular crystal candleholders.











Jenée and Gerald took the music selection especially seriously, deciding upon a DJ and two lively bands to entertain the crowd. The traditional first dance and parental dances were particularly important to the couple, including one less-traditional, yet sentimental dance. “We believe we started a special trend with our mother-of-the-bride/bride dance,” Jenée says proudly. West African music was featured prominently at the reception, as Gerald’s heritage was honored with a Liberian wedding custom known as the “Grand March,” which looks similar to a line dance.

Guests enjoyed a magnificent six-tiered confection decorated with ivory and deep purple flowers in between tiers, each of which featured the design on the bride’s earrings. Guests were gifted with metallic gold boxes filled with sterling-silver wine corkscrews,

stemless wine glasses, and bottles of the couple’s favorite wine.

Jenée urges other brides to take advantage of wedding vendors’ expert skills and knowledge. “They have the ability to hone in on details that you wouldn’t have thought of. They also have this amazing ability to keep you grounded and focused,” she explains.

The music, dancing, and love that surrounded their wedding day will linger in Jenée and Gerald’s minds forever. Gerald says that two of his favorite moments were when his father-in-law put his arm around him and told him he was his son, and when a little girl called Jenée a princess during their portrait session at the U.S. Capitol.

“I like events where many are involved and have a great time,” Gerald explains. “I like to see people happy and our reception was a blessed one!”

ERIN MIGDOL

