

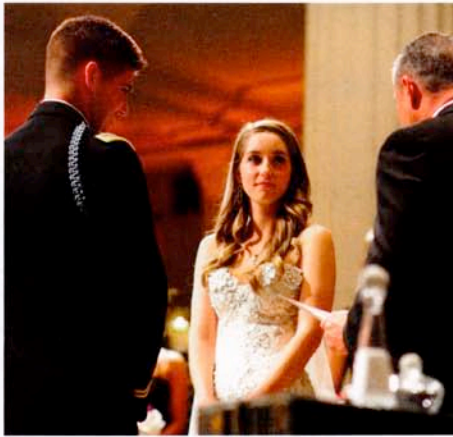
THE ART OF LOVE

TORI PATE & TRAVIS HOWARD

May 4, 2013 Houston, Texas | Photographed by Michael Carr Photography

An impressive oil painting of Tori Pate and Travis Howard's wedding day hangs above the fireplace in their new home. "We hired an artist to paint our celebration," explains Travis. "It is unique and will

be dear to us forever." The image captures the bride, groom, and their guests dancing the night away during their reception, and serves as a priceless memento of a flawless day that neither of them will soon forget.



The couple, who met at church when they were just 15 and began dating a few years later, hosted their nuptials in their hometown of Houston. The bride desired a classic and timeless ambiance for her day and enlisted the aid of a professional to help her fulfill her vision. "I couldn't imagine not having the help of our wedding planner," she says. "She did so much for us that I never would have thought to do."

Both the ceremony and reception were held in the magnificent hall of a historical building located in the heart of the city. Towering columns, crystal chandeliers, and stylish architectural detail set the stage for the refined service. Snowy buds in glass vases lined either side of the ceremony aisle, while lengthy vines of ivory flowers were suspended overhead. Two majestic staircases flanked both sides of the altar, and graceful white drapery created a stunning backdrop for the exchange of vows.





To transform the space for the reception, splashes of purple were added to the décor with lavender flora and violet lighting. A head table topped with a mirrored surface ran the length of the room. In its center, a hole was cut in the table to display an oversized vase cast out of ice and bursting with blooms. Crystal candelabra twined with flowers, rows of glowing candles, and plum charger plates completed the ornate tablescape. The remainder of attendees enjoyed their dinners at circular tables that were placed on the perimeter of the room, each featuring a centerpiece of either a crystal or mercury glass vase filled with frosty white flowers and emphasized with candlelight.

The towering wedding cake was designed to replicate the lace

and flowers on the bride's gown and featured alternating layers of traditional white cake and Italian crème. "Not only was it beautiful, but it was also extremely delicious," says the bride. In addition, each guest received a miniature confectionary that was an exact replica of the stunning dessert as a favor.

Reflecting on their day, both bride and groom report being thrilled with every aspect of their glamorous affair, though one detail stands out in particular. "My favorite thing from our wedding is the painting we had made," beams Tori. As the years go by, simply staring at the colorful canvas hanging above their fireplace will instantly transport the couple to the happy day when they first became husband and wife.

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