

# katie & jeff

CHICAGO  
November 18

photography by Dean Thorsen and Kristina Carter

## the bouquets

Katie and her bridesmaids carried a variety of white orchids, roses, and calla lilies interspersed with greenery and tied off with blue ribbon.



## their story

Katie Puch (an IT project manager) and Jeff Grund (a financial analyst) became friends as coworkers. One night after happy hour, Jeff “accidentally” missed his train on purpose so he could get time alone with Katie and ask her out. “She accepted, and the rest is history,” Jeff says. The couple, now both 29, dated for two years before getting engaged during a romantic evening at The Chocolate Bar at The Peninsula hotel. Since they’d both grown up in the Chicago area, Katie and Jeff were excited to have a big hometown celebration. They were especially overjoyed that Katie’s brother was granted leave from his station in Iraq to be in the wedding. —Laura Cave



#### the place settings

Katie made the menus herself, which were trimmed in chocolate brown, tied with a eucalyptus-colored ribbons, and folded into each guest's napkin.

#### the favors

Katie's mom's famous chocolate chip cookies were packed in cellophane bags and tied off with ribbons and a tag that read "A Sweet Goodnight."

#### the ceremony decor

Eucalyptus and dendrobium orchids adorned every other pew. >>





#### the cake

The couple chose a small cake to cut but served their favorite dessert, creme brulee, to all their guests.

#### the ceremony

Katie and Jeff felt at home getting married in the church they regularly attend. They selected Catholic readings, prayers, and songs that had personal significance for them. "A tradition in my family is to ring bells when the bride and groom walk out of the church. My uncle brought what we call an 'ooga' horn that's a family joke and dates back to the '60s," Katie says.







#### the reception

Guests dined and danced in ballroom of the historic Millenium Knickerbocker Hotel, which features vaulted gold ceilings, magnificent chandeliers, and a light-up dance floor.

#### the reception décor

The tables were named after Chicago landmarks and decorated with arrangements of curly willow, dendrobium orchids, rose petals, and hanging votives. >>



#### style notes

Katie combined chocolate brown, eucalyptus blue, and a city motif to create a modern take on old-Chicago elegance.



#### the bridal style

Katie wore a large Swarovski crystal brooch in her hair, which coordinated perfectly with her gown. The strapless, vintage-style Reem Acra ball gown featured exquisite silver thread, pearl, and Swarovski crystal detailing.

#### the details

The groom's mom calligraphed the place cards, which rested on a table decorated with an arrangement of curly willow and dendrobium orchids.





#### the accessories

Though they were high, Katie says her off-white open-toe heels were very comfortable.

#### the photos

The couple decided to take a few photos in a subway station—a fitting backdrop, considering Jeff “missed” his train stop one day so he could spend more time with Katie.



## their ingredients

**CEREMONY SITE** St. Vincent DePaul

Catholic Church (773) 325-8610

**RECEPTION SITE** Millennium Knickerbocker

Hotel (312) 867-7511

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Dean Thorsen and Kristina Carter/Thorsen Photography,

ThorsenPhotography.com, Naperville

**VIDEOGRAPHY** Carbon 14 Films, Inc.

(708) 539-5479, Olympia Fields

**CONSULTANT** Jenn Miklos, Jenn E. Vents

(773) 619-2907

**OFFICIANT** Rev. Patrick Harrity, C.M.

(773) 325-8610

**GOWN** Reem Acra, Macy's State Street

Bridal Salon (312) 781-3545

**SHOES** Lori's Shoes (773) 281-5655

**HAIR** Hairpins Bridal (815) 370-7473, Joliet

**MAKEUP** Sonia Roselli Productions,

SoniaRoselliProductions.com

**BRIDESMAID DRESSES** Eva's Bridal

(708) 403-3334, Orland Park

**FORMALWEAR** Formally Modern Tuxedo

(773) 975-7700

**INVITATIONS** Louise's, Inc.

(219) 365-3837, St. John, IN

**FLOWERS** Scarlet Petal (773) 486-0904

**RENTAL EQUIPMENT** BBJ Linens

(847) 329-8400, Skokie

**CATERING** Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel

**MUSIC** Ceremony: Orion of Chicago; reception:

Toast & Jam (773) 401-1333

**DANCE LESSONS** Tango Para Todos

(773) 505-1577

**CAKE** House of Fine Chocolates (773) 525-5700

**FAVORS** Cookies made by Katie's mother

**TRANSPORTATION** Chicago Minibus

(847) 671-9080, Franklin Park

**HONEYMOON** Hotel Hana Maui

(808) 248-8211, Hana, HI; Hyatt Regency

Maui Resort & Spa (808) 661-1234, Lahaina,

HI; Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa

(808) 742-1234, Koloa, HI