

Couple infuses ceremony with Nashville touches

Family heirlooms, local artisans showcased at every turn

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Monica Weiss-Sharp and Patrick Miller married at Scarritt-Bennett Center. / Mary Rosenbaum Photography

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If more blind dates yielded results as good as those gotten by Monica Weiss-Sharp, 28, and Patrick Miller, 40, they wouldn't have such a bad reputation. And despite the fact she had never been on one, Monica was willing to give it a shot after a friend of her family passed along her phone number to a person she knew through pilates.

"I had been single for a little while and was open to meeting someone, so he called and we had a couple of good chats," she says. "Then he took me on our first date to Cafe Margot in East Nashville for brunch, which is my favorite meal, so he got big points." After they ate, they went for a walk and ended the date talking together at her place. That was the end of 2008, and they have not been apart since, although they did not rush into anything. "I think we were both a little bit cautious," she says. "We had both gotten out of pretty serious relationships a while before, but we were taking slow steps initially, and the age difference was a consideration for both of us."

But slow and steady worked for them. "We both felt pretty connected right away," Monica says. "It became pretty clear within the first several months that this was going to be a big deal, that we were really pretty good together." So when he proposed to her two years later in 2010, she had no problem saying yes to his proposal even though it took a while for him to ask her.

"He tried to do something really grand and romantic and arrange for us to go on a balloon ride to propose," she says. He wanted to keep it a secret, and he told her they would need to get up at 5 a.m. without telling her why. Inevitably, each morning the weather would

be bad and the trip would be canceled, until finally he had to give up on that idea. But on the way from one family trip on the Cumberland Plateau to another family trip on the beach, the two stopped to eat in Monteagle.

"We stopped at a little place for lunch, and I was still hungry and went up to the counter, and when I came back my napkin was awkwardly placed where I had been sitting," she says. "He was saying how happy he was and how excited he was to move forward. He kept waiting for me to move the napkin until he finally asked me to move it and there was the ring box." A reserved person, Monica preferred it was a quiet moment between the two of them. "It was perfect for me where we got to have our little moment," she says.

And when the two got married on April 9, they showed their mutual love for Nashville, the city where their relationship became what it is today. "We love Nashville, and we had a lot of people coming in from out of town, so everything we did we tried to showcase Nashville to the best of our ability," she says. "We had our rehearsal dinner in the private event space of Hard Rock Cafe with an awesome view of Broadway, and brunch the day after at Belcourt, catered by Monell's." They also fed each other their brownies with spoons hammered by local artist Ben Caldwell and toasted each other with the actual silver stirrup cups used by her grandparents at fox hunts as her grandfather was once Master of the Hounds for Hillsboro Hounds. And guests left with a sweet treat of local honey from Ed Johnson in Goodlettsville.

Now that it has been a few months since the wedding, the two have really gotten into the groove of being married. "We try to have a lot of fun together and take things lightly," she

says. "We are both really excited about taking this big step together and seeing what comes next."



Monica Weiss-Sharp wore a strapless Pronovias gown, and her attendants wore lavender dresses, all from Village Bridal. / Mary Rosenbaum Photography > www.maryrosenbaum.co

CEREMONY SNAPSHOT

The location: The ceremony was held in Wightman Chapel at Scarritt-Bennett Center. The reception was in

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