



"I was in tears walking down the aisle," says Courtney. "My dad said to just look at Tim."

MODERN LOVE

Great music and priceless artwork set the scene for these Chicagoans' sweet and stylish bash

BY LAMBETH HOCHWALD PHOTOGRAPHS BY OLIVIA LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHIE



"The train was the best part," says the bride of her Carolina Herrera gown.

THE COUPLE Courtney Kenny, 29, PR executive, and Timothy McHugh, 30, real estate investment analyst

THE WEDDING At Assumption Catholic Church and the Art Institute of Chicago on July 6, 2013

HOW THEY MET In high school, north of Chicago

THE PROPOSAL In front of her first Chicago apartment

HONEYMOON Paris, Santorini, and Athens

Although Tim McHugh thought his first date with Courtney Kenny, to their sophomore homecoming dance in high school, went pretty well, she wasn't so sure. "We took an eight-year break," says Tim. But when they tried again in 2007, it stuck, and on July 6, 2013, they tied the knot in a wedding full of pretty, unexpected details.

The bride wore Carolina Herrera for the Catholic ceremony, skipping the designer's more traditional gowns in favor of a color-blocked A-line. For the reception, she and Tim chose the Art Institute of Chicago, inviting their 300 guests to the museum's Modern

Wing. The twists continued, with St. Germain margaritas and tables topped with bright ombré centerpieces.

Courtney surprised everyone when it was time for her speech: "I'd spent months rehearsing in secret to sing 'Your Song,'" she says. "Tim's jaw dropped when the music started!" The band played until 11:30 p.m., then the party moved to the couple's favorite dive bar, where sliders, fries, and a DJ kept things going. "We stayed until 2:30 a.m.," says the bride. "We didn't want the night to end!"

CAKE IN THE LOOK: DYAD PHOTOGRAPHY; BOUQUET: ANDREW MCCAUL; ALL OTHERS: CATHY CRAWFORD, STYLING BY RENEE YAN



Crocodile-embossed boxes held white, peach, apricot, and mango roses.



Bridesmaids carried bouquets of succulents and peonies.



Baby's breath encircled silhouettes of the bride and groom (also used on the save-the-dates).



Ombré fondant dots covered layers of vanilla and lemon-butter cake.



TAGS \$5 each; Fleur de Letters; fleurdeletters.com. **WREATHS** Eight-inch boxwood, \$17, Save On Crafts; save-on-crafts.com.

EARRINGS \$65, Elizabeth Bower; elizabethbower.com.

BOUQUET Sweet peas, \$250, Michael George Flowers; michaelgeorgeflowers.com.

DRESS Silk, \$4,050, Rosa Clará; rosaclarabridal.com. **SASH** Satin and crystal, from \$375, Ossai; ossaibridalaccessories.com.

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TAKEAWAY TIPS FROM TIM AND COURTNEY

Don't forget why you're here Courtney and Tim started working on their ceremony soon after getting engaged. "It's the most important part of the day but often gets left to the last minute," she says.

Streamline the menu The couple saved money by keeping the dinner choices simple. "We had more-creative options during the cocktail hour," says Courtney.

Pass on perfectionism Courtney learned to let go so that she could get things done. "No one will care whether the table numbers are folded or framed!"

Keep the crowd on its toes Tim and Courtney surprised dancing guests with mini milkshakes and bite-size doughnuts.

Ceremony venue: Assumption Catholic Church; assumption-chgo.org.

Reception venue and catering: The Art Institute of Chicago; artic.edu.

Wedding planner: Parties Etc.; partiesetcetera.com.

Event designer: Jesse Deckard; 773-516-4044.

Wedding dress: Carolina Herrera; carolinaherrera.com.

Cake: Amy Beck Cake Design; amybeckcakedesign.com.

Photography: Olivia Leigh Photographie; olivialeighweddings.com.