

taking vows

Family tradition

It never ceases to amaze how mothers provide. As Colleen Kathryn Burke toiled through her ER physician residency at Detroit Medical Center, the last thing she had time for was planning a wedding—fiancé Stephen Verb was deep in his ophthalmology practice as well. What's a bride to do? Trust mom. The Burkes had just bought a home on Old Hickory Lake in Gallatin and fell in love with Nashville's Southern flair. So Kathy Burke paired with planner Angela Proffitt to throw an October destination wedding for the Michigan natives without her daughter having to worry about a thing.

"Colleen's jaw literally dropped when she walked into the reception tent," Angela recalls. "She had no idea what to expect."

And that's perhaps the best gift of all—enjoying a weekend full of activities with 270 guests on vacation from 24 states (only six were from Tennessee.) Buses toted them through the town, led by uncanny impersonators of country music icons, on a packed schedule of dinners, after-parties and sightseeing.

In a sheath of beaded lace by Barcelona designer Manuel Mota, Colleen said "I do" to Stephen at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Hendersonville and arrived to a dreamy garden filled with beads and wisteria (mom and daughter's favorite flower) at Cheekwood. Tennessee's natural beauty flourished thanks to Jennifer Neal Edwards of Village Flowers, and inside the dinner tent a rosy hue highlighted an orange and almond confection from Maples Wedding Cakes. Banners bearing both fami-

lies' coat of arms adorned the mansion entrance. After a late night of dancing led by Pat Patrick, the party morphed into a spontaneous jam session in the drawing room. Colleen's harmonica-playing cousin Marc Ferris was so impressive that he earned an invitation to join the band, if only he lived locally. To the tinkle of tiny silver bells, the couple escaped in a vintage white Jaguar to a honeymoon in Grand Cayman and guests continued on to an Opryland brunch the next day.

Kathy was listening all those years when her little girl envisioned her wedding day—and it was apparent in the details of this revelry-filled, Nashville-centric weekend.

—Sandy Nelson



*Colleen Kathryn Burke
marries
Stephen Patrick Verb*

