



bryn & tim

APRIL 30, 2004, MORRISON

photography by Paige Eden

Avid music lovers Bryn Marie Ford and Tim Hartman, both 33, started going to concerts together (aka dating) after first meeting at Tim's annual May party for all those born in that month. Two birthday bashes later, the photographer proposed during a Colorado camping trip over the couple's own soundtrack. "Tim played our Grateful Dead song and we danced around the fire," Bryn, an executive assistant, says. "The next thing I knew he was down on one knee."

Picking a wedding site for this jam band-devoted duo was simple: "Red Rocks... the best concert venue on this planet!" the bride exclaims. Fortunately, the geologically formed open-air amphitheatre also happens to be one of the most beautiful settings in the state. "Red Rocks is an amazing place," Bryn says, "so I wanted to stick with the natural essence of the surroundings." Orchids and moss accentuated the natural mountain backdrop, while candles were scattered everywhere to warm up the snowy night. That's right—an unexpected springtime snowfall covered the day. "If rain is supposed to be a blessing on your wedding day, then snow must mean you are really blessed," Bryn says. >>





According to Bryn, the weather was typical for Colorado: "Cold and snowing on our wedding day and beautiful and 78 degrees the next day." No matter, because the late spring snowfall made for lots of romantic photos snuggling under the couple's wedding blanket.



BRYN & TIM CONT.

Since the emergency rain tent was no match for a snowy outdoor wedding, the Native American ceremony (she's of the Cowlitz and Steilacoom tribes; he's Tennessee Cherokee) was moved indoors to the Hall of Fame Memorabilia Room. Bryn says, "It was fine because we just love everything about Red Rocks."

The bride, wearing an ivory satin gown hand-embroidered with small flowers, walked barefoot down an aisle that was lined with mini orchid plants. She was preceded by her two bridesmaids in sage-green dresses with an iridescent wine-color shimmer, who carried green and white hydrangeas, stephanotis, and burgundy calla lilies—a subtly different mix from the bridal bouquet of mini green cymbidium orchids, greenery, gardenias, and stephanotis blossoms.

Bryn and Tim asked close friend and cousin Lori Sowa to read a Salish blessing, a traditional Native American blessing, for the ritual-filled ceremony. The programs, also created by Lori, were tied with a tiny cedar swag and explained the Native American wedding traditions: Cedar Smudging—to cleanse and bless the couple and the rings; Food Sharing—they fed each other buffalo meat (representing Tim providing for his new family) and blueberries (representing Bryn bringing sweetness to their lives); and Blanket Wrapping—the couple's parents wrapped them in a wedding blanket (representing their love and protection for the couple).

After the ceremony, the newlyweds headed out into the wild and took photos smooching in the snow "under our wedding love blanket," as guests enjoyed cocktails and watched the couple's favorite concert, >>



Green cymbidium orchids were the signature bloom of the day, adorning everything from the wedding cake and centerpieces to the massive red rock of the reception space.

BRYN & TIM'S INGREDIENTS
CEREMONY AND RECEPTION SITE Red Rocks Amphitheater & Visitor Center (303) 697-6047
PHOTOGRAPHY "Paige's style is so unique, and her use of different film is really what sets her apart," Bryn says. Paige Eden Photography, PaigeEden.com, Denver
OFFICIANT Eddie Box Jr. and Betty Box, Of the Ute Nation, Ignacio GOWN Bryn's Birnbaum & Bullock strapless gown featured a sweep train. Bea's Bridal Nook (303) 333-4588, Denver HAIR AND MAKEUP Instead of a traditional veil, Bryn wore fresh flowers in her hair. Hollie Sanger, The Finishing Room (303) 715-4673, Denver BRIDESMAID DRESSES David's Bridal (888) 480-2743 (see more dresses at TheKnot.com/davids-bridesmaids) INVITATIONS The couple chose a very simple, white square design, printed with a deep red font. Paper Talk (303) 777-1481, Denver FLOWERS The honor attendants carried a nosegay of Stephanotis. Doug Ek, Daffodils (719) 599-4104, Colorado Springs RENTAL EQUIPMENT Butler Rents (303) 388-5971, Denver CATERING Red Rock Amphitheater MUSIC Quality Mobile Sound (303) 682-5242, Denver CAKE Mulberries Cake Shop (303) 282-1044, Denver TRANSPORTATION Ace Express (303) 421-2780, Golden HONEYMOON Hyatt Regency Kauai Resort and Spa (808) 742-1234, Koloa, Hawaii

BRYN & TIM CONT.

Widespread Panic Live at Red Rocks, on video monitors located all over the visitor center. "It gave our out-of-town guests an idea of what it's like to see a show here," explains Bryn.

The 125-person party then shuffled over to the aptly named Rock Room—the original architects left as much natural foundation as possible, so half of the room contains an oversize red rock. Doug Ek, the couple's "brilliant" floral designer, worked with the unique space, creating moss stations with orchids on the rock to look as though they had naturally sprouted. In designing the centerpieces, the florist continued with his mixing-up-nature concept—eight moss containers held green orchid sprays, green apples, and pears with variegated lily grass and curly willow; green orchids, green grapes, and curly willow filled the other eight rectangular glass vases.

A herd of elk came down the mountain to visit the festivities, while guests dined on fabulously prepared food, including filet and salmon. "All I saw were empty plates!" Bryn says happily. Picking up the floral motif, the golden yellow, fruit-filled cake was decorated with cymbidium orchids and personalized with the couple's monogram. But it was the groom's cake that shaped a truly personal touch—shaped like Ship Rock (one of the sloping monoliths that form the amphitheater), it was decorated with all the names of the bands the couple has seen together.

Music, naturally, was very important to the couple: disco, rock, and lots of Motown resonated through the stunning space. But this won't be the last time Bryn and Tim hear tunes at the venue. Bryn says, "As a wedding gift, our friend Rita gave us two tickets to any Red Rocks show we want to go to...does she know us or what?" —*Kathleen Murray*