



Kae designed her lace gown, which was sewn by her mother's friend. Her headpiece was a last-minute addition. Danny wore Hugo Boss.



Two cakes were served: one traditional, shown here with a dried-palm accent; the other to celebrate a close friend's birthday, on the same day.

"It all started with our mark, kind of like a logo—the way our letters interacted with each other," says Danny—who designed the invitations.



## KAE YELCHANINOV & DANNY SKITSKO

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It seemed like a perfect plan. When Danny Skitsko prepared to propose to Kae Yelchaninov over a picnic lunch during a June 2016 road trip to Point Reyes, California, he had it all worked out. He'd arranged to pick up a special pizza: It was their favorite food and the subject of many inside jokes. As soon as she noticed the phrase "Always say yes to pizza" on the box, she had a feeling something was up. But when she opened the lid and saw a pie laden with mushrooms, confusion set in. She said, "Are you serious?" Danny—not knowing that he'd accidentally ordered her least-favorite topping and thinking she'd seen the "Will You Marry Me?" inscribed on the inner lid—replied, "Yes!" There was a moment lost in translation before she noticed his proposal and happily agreed.

Kae and Danny met at a friend's wedding in May 2014. She was a creative-design manager in Portland; he, a graphic designer in San Francisco. But it wasn't until the following April, when they joined the same friends for a baseball game, that they hit it off. "Our mutual disinterest in baseball brought us together," he says, laughing. They

eventually began a long-distance relationship, which continued until after the wedding, when Kae moved to San Francisco.

In planning their day, the pair collaborated on an aesthetic that reflected their distinct styles: gilded, decadent elements for her, and bold, playful hues for him. "We looked at planning like an art project," says Kae. They worked with a florist who used foraged blooms to build a palette, and they drew visual inspiration from Byzantine art, jewelry, and even the costumes in the 2015 film *Macbeth*.

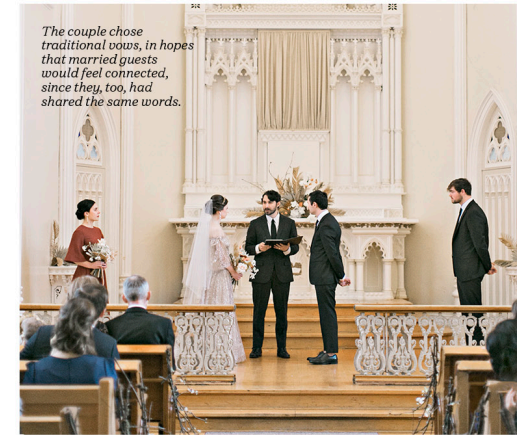
They scoured their region for a chapel with ornate décor and tall arches—a motif they'd use from invitations to reception—and found it at the Chapel at Providence Academy, in Vancouver. There they exchanged traditional vows before a tight-knit group of 61 guests, with Kae's sister and Danny's brother joining them at the altar. Then it was back to Portland, for dinner and dancing at the Cleaners at Ace Hotel, the site of one of their first dates. Pizza wasn't on the menu, but each centerpiece included a wink to that lunch they'd shared the previous summer: dried mushrooms. —Claire Sullivan

**SOURCES** Locations The Chapel at Providence Academy (ceremony); the Cleaners at Ace Hotel (reception) Event planning, styling, and creative direction Kae + Alés Catering Clyde Common Flowers Hart Photography Maria Lamb Photography Stationery Danny Skitsko (design); Dependable Letterpress (printing) Cake Papa Haydn Music Blue Wave Band Rentals La Tavola Fine Linen; the Party Place Bride's and matron of honor's dresses Velonia Boutique & Tailoring (sewing) Makeup Beth Level Artistry Groom's suit and tie Hugo Boss See The Guide for more vendor details

MARIA LAMB PHOTOGRAPHY



Forsythia and witch-hazel installations carried the arch motif to the reception. "We wanted it to feel like it grew out of nature," says Kae of the styling.



The couple chose traditional vows, in hopes that married guests would feel connected, since they, too, had shared the same words.

The bride held a bouquet, made by Hart, of flannelflowers, burnt-orange ranunculus, quicksand roses, chrysanthemums, and a mix of dried palms and mushrooms.



The youngest family members, plus the son of the friends whose wedding first brought the couple together, preceded Kae down the aisle. The MOB made the girls' dresses.



“  
The reception felt like a giant hug from all our friends—that's actually how we felt the whole day.  
—KAE  
”



A simply designed seating chart led guests to family-style tables at the reception venue.



The bride's sister, Alesya, was the matron of honor. Kae designed her garnet-hued dress.