

Ashley Harper & Brian Hoyt
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From Engaged to Married in 8 Weeks

By Mary E. Hart

The old adage is “When you know, you know” and that especially holds true for Ashley Harper and Brian Hoyt, who got engaged and then were married with a gorgeous reception at the Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown, MA just eight short weeks later.

Ashley and Brian met when they were both students at Brigham Young University in Utah. They graduated in June of this year and were going to be separated because Brian is going to medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Neither Ashley nor Brian wanted a long-distance relationship and they wanted to stay together. So, before graduation, Ashley and Brian flew from Utah to Massachusetts so Brian could meet Ashley’s parents. Two days after arriving, Brian proposed to Ashley on a hammock in her parents’ yard, and they decided to get married and head down to Texas together.

With Ashley in Utah, most of the hands-on, local planning was done by her mother, Beth Harper, but Ashley and Beth looked at a number of ideas online together, including finding a bouquet that Beth’s friend, Lisa Wootan, arranged for the wedding. “I couldn’t have pulled off the planning without the help of my friends,” says Beth. “They really stepped up to the plate and helped out with everything from cake tastings at Cakes for Occasions, which created the delectable red velvet wedding cake, to reception table decorations and flowers.” Lisa and Beth went to the Flower Exchange and got all the flowers that were needed for Ashley’s bouquet; the bridesmaids’ bouquets and the large floral arrangements.

Ashley’s colors were lavender and green, so the main flower in her bouquet was the Cool Water lavender rose. The boutonnieres were created by Nunan’s in Georgetown.

Ashley and Brian were married at the Boston Massachusetts Temple in Belmont. It’s known for being the 100th operating temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The photographer for Ashley and Brian’s wedding and reception was Beth’s daughter-in-law’s sister, Christine Olson, who flew out of Utah specifically for the event.

The Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown was able to take on the reception on short notice, and they produced a wonderful reception for about 165 to 170 people, including eight bridesmaids and eight ushers.. “Donna Andrews, the Director of Sales and Events at the Black Swan, was wonderful,” says Beth. “She helped me decide on the best choices and what went well together for the stations at the reception.” The menu for Ashley and Brian’s reception included a pasta station with fusilli pasta with wild mushroom cream sauce; an entrée station with boneless breast of chicken with a lemon-basil supreme sauce; and carved tenderloin of beef with port wine demi-glace. The stationed reception was a huge hit with the guests, especially the pasta station, which was quite popular, and it also provided Ashley and Brian the opportunity to talk to all of their guests while people were waiting in line and moving around.

One of the most touching moments for Beth was the morning of the wedding. She and her husband, Eric, presented Ashley with a pearl necklace. Beth has a pearl necklace of her own as well, and she told Ashley that even though they’d be apart in distance, by wearing their pearl necklaces, they would keep the other close to their heart at all times. Later, during the reception, Ashley and her dad danced to “I Loved Her First” by Tim McGraw. The music for the reception was provided by Ashley and Brian, who put together their own mix CD and played it on the sound system at the Black Swan Country Club.