

A portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing a black tuxedo jacket, a white dress shirt, and a white bow tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. A small boutonniere is pinned to his left lapel. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some warm light sources and a candle in a holder on the right.

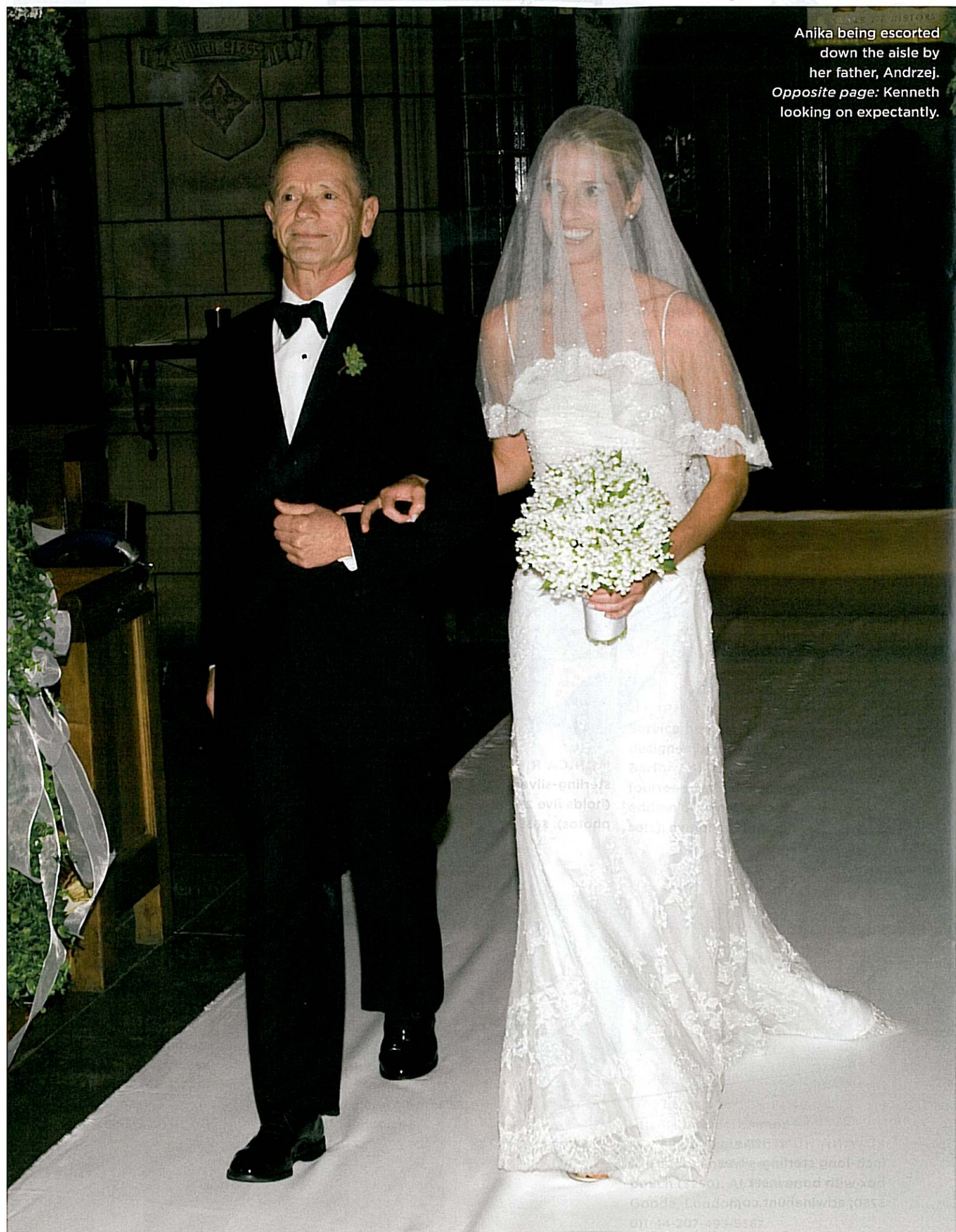
A NATURAL FIT

ANIKA PROSKUROWSKI WEDS KENNETH NATORI 6.16.2007

BY CHANTAL M. McLAUGHLIN

OTOGRAPHS BY CYNTHIA DELCONTE

ANIKA BEING ESCORTED
down the aisle by
her father, Andrzej.
Opposite page: Kenneth
looking on expectantly.





Left: The couple exchanging vows at St. Vincent Ferrer, in New York. Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Glorious stained-glass windows in the nave; the groom's parents, Josie and Kenneth Natori; the bridal party in their Natori-designed white gowns; Anika and her mother, Maxine.

"Why don't you marry someone like Ken?"

was a taunt Anika Proskurowski often heard from her parents. They had met the man in question, Kenneth Natori, when he and their son, Giora, were students at Amherst College in the late 1990s. In 2003, Anika and Ken both wound up at Stanford University—she for a master's in math education, he for his MBA—and the tease turned into a reality when Ken asked his best friend's little sister to what he assumed was a casual dinner. "I thought it was a date, but he didn't," Anika says. Regardless of what the night out was called, the sparks were clearly flying. Five months later, Ken professed his love.

On paper, the two are an unlikely combination. "My mother is from Mexico; my father is from Poland," Anika says. "I'm Jewish, one of four kids and from Oregon. Ken is Roman Catholic, an only child and from New York. His mother is from the Philippines, and his father is Japanese-American." Anika's father is a university professor; her mother is a social worker. Ken's mother is the lingerie and apparel designer Josie Natori, and his father, Kenneth Natori Sr., is a former Wall Street executive who now serves as chairman of the Natori fashion company. They are prominent figures in the New York social scene. "We could not come from more different backgrounds," Anika admits. But, she notes, the two have very similar values. "Our

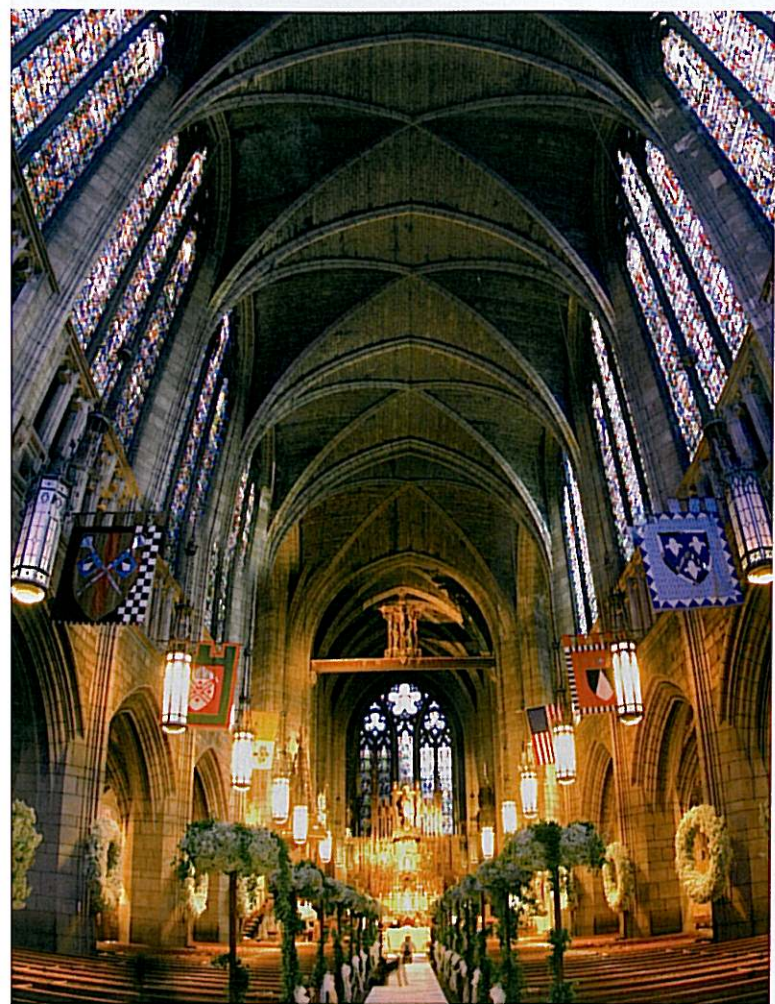
priorities are our relationship and our friends and families."

Upon receiving their graduate degrees, they moved to New York, where Ken worked in Japanese institutional equity sales at Lehman Brothers (he later joined the family business) and Anika began teaching at an elementary school. During a spring getaway to the Caribbean island of Nevis, Ken dropped to one knee and proposed on the beach. "I was so excited that I had a hard time sleeping the rest of the trip," Anika says.

Even before the couple flew home, Anika's future mother-in-law had come up with an idea for the bride's gown. "I am blessed that she is a designer," Anika says. "She created dresses for me, my mom and my nine bridesmaids." Josie was also very involved in planning the wedding. "I definitely had input, but Josie made most of the decisions," Anika marvels. She trusted her mother-in-law's taste and was delighted to have her help, as well as that of Josie's friend David Monn, a visionary event planner, whose credits include two recent Costume Institute Balls at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

On a warm evening last June, 250 guests—with some from France, Mexico, Sweden and the Philippines—filled the pews at St. Vincent Ferrer, a large stone church with magnificent stained-glass windows, in Midtown Manhattan, for a Catholic ceremony officiated by the resident priest as well as the archbishop of the Philippines. One of Ken's groomsmen, of course, was the bride's brother, Giora. And when Anika made her entrance to Puccini's "O Mio Babbino Caro," Ken was moved to tears. "I could see all the way down the aisle that she had the biggest smile," he says. "She looked so beautiful."

For the reception, Monn transformed the main dining room of the Metropolitan Club on Fifth Avenue into a symphony of white. "Our color scheme was all white, including the bridesmaids' dresses," Anika says. "David brought in white carpets, drapes and flowers. It was breathtaking." The revelry went on until three in the morning. "We wanted people to leave thinking, This couple is so in love, and the wedding was a reflection of who they are," Anika says. "And it was exactly that."





The Details

RING

Anika so admired the ring worn by her mother-in-law, Josie Natori, that she had the same Parisian jeweler, LORENZ BÄUMER (011-212-42-86-99-33; lorenzbaumer.com), make her a similar one.

The large sculptural bauble has a cushion-cut diamond surrounded by small diamonds, all set in a dazzling moonstone.

EVENT DESIGNER

Along the elements DAVID MONN (212-242-2009; davidmonn.com) created for the wedding were the invitations, the floral arrangements, the jasmine- and orange-blossom-scented candles at the church, and the drapes and table linens for the reception.

WEDDING CAKE

"I didn't care what it looked like, but it had to be delicious," says the bride. After trying four different

kinds prepared by private baker Jan Bailey, the couple chose a carrot cake with cream cheese frosting. "You wouldn't normally think of carrot cake for a wedding," Anika admits, "but it was the most amazing thing."

THE TROUSSEAU

"This was the perfect occasion to design a couture trousseau," says Josie, who surprised Anika with a collection of ivory-colored silk lingerie two days before the wedding. It included a chemise with beaded lace appliqué on the cups and hem, a short kimono-style wrap and a beaded cocoon shrug. Replicas of the collection, called Anika, are part of the NATORI spring 2008 line (natori.com).

WHAT THE BRIDE WORE

Josie designed Anika's exquisite dress and veil. "Anika and I agreed that it would be very sleek, very modern and not poufy,"

Josie explains. The bodice was ruched, and the entire gown featured lace appliqué with hand-beaded Swarovski crystals.

HAIR AND MAKEUP

A few weeks before the wedding, Josie took Anika to Paris to visit her hairdresser, MASSATO (011-33-1-42-96-10-04; massato-paris.com), who suggested that she wear her hair in a chignon. On the actual day, STEPHEN KNOLL (212-421-0100; stephenknoll.com) styled the bride's hair; his staff did the bridal party's hair and makeup at his salon on Madison Avenue. Olivier Echaudemaison, the creative director of Guerlain and a friend of Josie's, applied Anika's makeup.

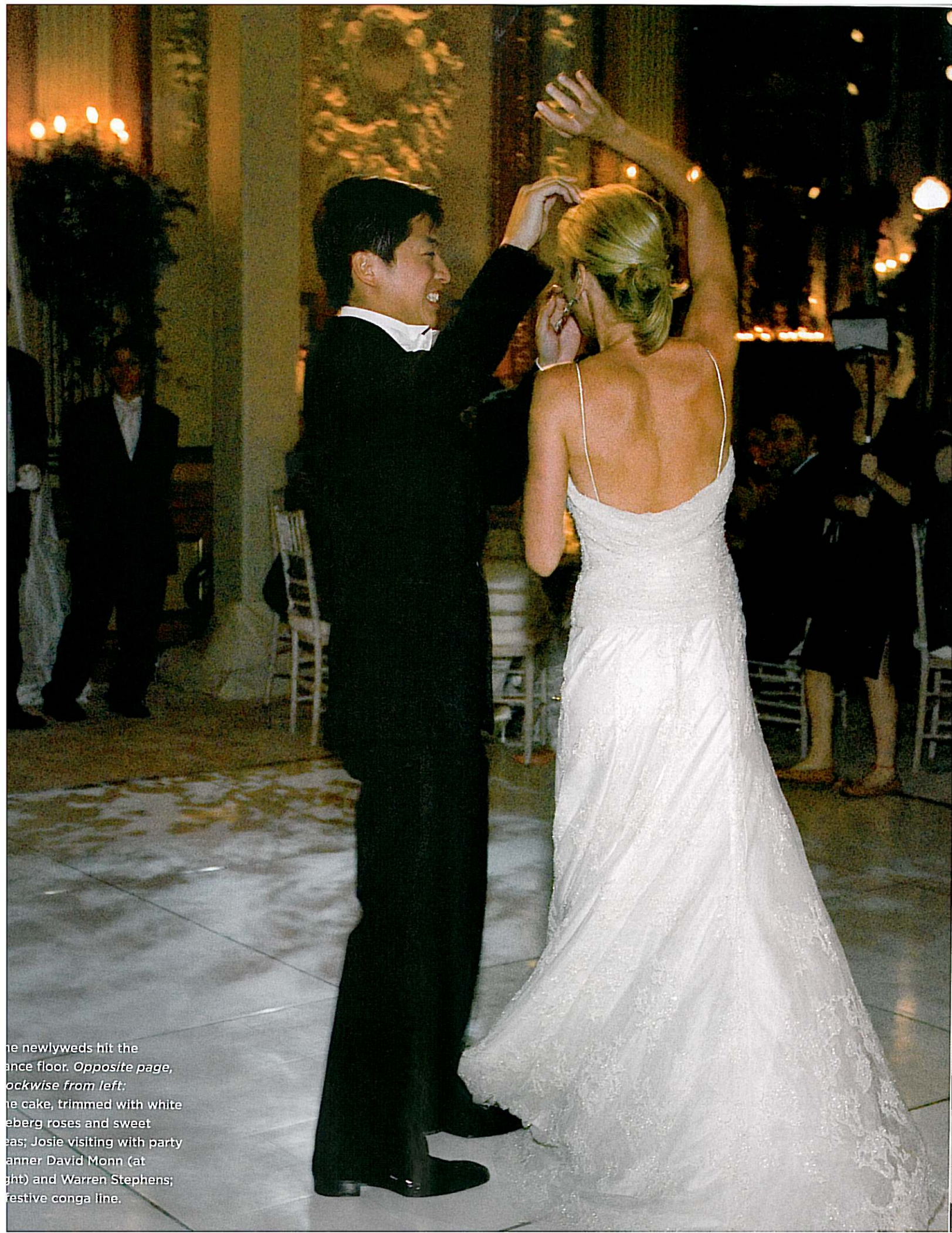
THE MUSIC

Members of New York's acclaimed ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S (212-594-6100; oslmusic.org) performed a mix of classical, religious and secular songs;

a mezzo-soprano and a baritone from the Metropolitan Opera's Young Artists program joined the instrumentalists for some pieces. "Later, one guest said she'd never cried at a wedding," Anika recalls, "but she did at mine because the music provoked so much emotion." Dancing was the highlight of the reception, during which the DEANNA JONES ORCHESTRA (212-679-1077; deannajones.com) barely took any breaks.

THE HONEYMOON

After spending three nights at the Natori family's apartment in Paris, the couple headed first to LE SIRENUSE (sirenuse.it), in Positano, Italy, then to HÔTEL DU CAP EDEN ROC (edenroc-hotel.fr), in Cap d'Antibes, France. Before returning to New York, they recharged at the MAYFLOWER INN (mayflowerinn.com), in Connecticut, for two nights.



he newlyweds hit the
ance floor. *Opposite page,*
clockwise from left:
he cake, trimmed with white
eberg roses and sweet
eas; Josie visiting with party
anner David Monn (at
ght) and Warren Stephens;
festive conga line.