



Noraan Sadik & Stephen Haskins

Caterer: The Upper Crust

Planner & Designer: Dan Fehlig

Ceremony & Reception: Studio 450

Gown: Amsale

Hair & Makeup: Dre Brown

Florist: Pennington Flowers

Lighting: Stortz Lighting

Cake: The Upper Crust

Photographer:

Laurie Rhodes Photography

Videographer: Asymmetric Pictures

Music: DJ Ibrahim, John Legend

Honeymoon: Thailand, Bangkok, Koh

Samui



The Upper Crust Catering & Events, 212.691.4570, tucnyc.com

when we became aware of my dad's illness. Stephen was applying to residency programs at the time, but, always thoughtful, he decided to consider only programs in the tri-state area so I could be with my family.



We started talking about marriage, and I knew that, because of my dad's condition, I didn't want to wait too long. Stephen was graduating and starting his residency in late June. We only had two weekends that we could have the wedding, I immediately started looking for a venue.

We wanted to have the wedding in a loft space, and visited Studio 450, a sleek, duplex loft with a Hudson River view, and we booked it immediately. Only one thing was missing, being engaged! Ten days later, we headed to my parents' house and Stephen had "the talk" with my dad. Then my mother suggested that Stephen and I go to the mall. When we returned home everyone yelled, "Surprise!" Within minutes, he proposed with a beautiful song in front of our family and friends.



We hired Dan Fehlig, the owner of The Upper

Crust, to do our catering and help us with the décor. He spent hours over the next six months helping us figure things out, and was instrumental in just about every aspect of our wedding. Because the wedding was in a loft, Dan even helped us order tables, chairs, linens, and lighting.

In early April of 2008, my father took a turn for the worse and needed emergency surgery. I took a leave of absence from work and Stephen spent endless hours at the hospital by our sides. My father passed away a few weeks later, just one month before our wedding day. At the time I thought it was a cruel joke, but I felt blessed to have learned what a giving man I had by my side. As a family, we decided to keep the wedding date as planned. We knew my father would want it that way. Though it was difficult, we continued the planning and met with Dan to finalize everything in the three weeks we had left.

Overall, we wanted a chic New York wedding. For the ceremony, we had arranged to have friends from our three a cappella groups sing the song that Stephen proposed with as I walked down the aisle. The ceremony was all white and felt heavenly. I wanted the cocktail hour to feel like an art gallery, except the "art" on display would be blown up pictures of Stephen and I at various points in our lives. The photos were strategically placed on the walls to feel like a gallery. The only flowers in the room were several white orchids, hanging from the ceiling. We also had a Latin jazz band. For our reception, I wanted to keep it simple and clean, but with the boldness of my favorite color, magenta, plus purple and white accents through the tablecloths and the dupioni silk runners. Our centerpieces were vases of different heights with interesting orchid arrangements.

As we entered our reception, we were escorted by men singing and playing drums and tambourines, the traditional Egyptian "zaffa" to honor my family's heritage. We surprised everyone by having my friend from college, John Legend, the five-time Grammy winner and R&B Soul artist, perform during our first dance. Later, Stephen and I performed a fun duet as another surprise.

Stephen and I couldn't be happier about that night. Dan and his staff kept the wedding running smoothly the whole night. We've heard such wonderful things from the people who were there celebrating with us. Although he was not physically present, I know my father had so much to do with our unforgettable wedding, and I'm forever grateful.

