



high school sweethearts

by Carla Schwartz
photography by Harry Vitanis

Katie Garagiola
to Daniel Earley
Birmingham, Michigan

Theatrics are a normal part of Katie Garagiola's life. So, it's no surprise that at her 1998 homecoming dance at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, she was interested in her date's best friend — Daniel Earley from Brother Rice. Thus began a seven-year courtship. They spent a year together at Notre Dame, and then she transferred to New York University to study performing arts. During the long-distance romance she realized, "He's my best friend." Katie describes their personalities as complementary — he's laid-back and she's intense. "He teaches me to relax and inspires me for the moment. I teach him to reach his potential. Our relationship is filled with romance and spontaneity."

The wedding ceremony took place at Holy Name Church in Birmingham. The reception was at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. "My mom planned the wedding, but I had tons of input," says Katie. The guests danced all night, and the evening was filled with many special touches. One standout moment was when Katie's father, Steve, introduced the bridal party to the music of the Final Countdown of the Detroit Pistons. She described the scene as hilarious and rowdy with chest-bumping, laughter and screaming.

Grandfather Joe Garagiola summed up the evening, "This is the damnest wedding I've ever been to."



A rose-bedecked cake, lily centerpieces and a bridesmaid party gleaming in wine-colored gowns made the Garagiola/ Earley wedding a memorable day.



The father of the bride, Steve Garagiola, puts his daughter's dancing shoes in the spotlight.

the details

BRIDE: Katie Garagiola, 24, a singer, actress and voice teacher

GROOM: Daniel Earley, 24, a public relations and advertising executive at Berline Group, Bloomfield Hills

PARENTS: Steve Garagiola and Carol Hackett Garagiola, Sarah and Tony Earley

PROPOSAL: At the site of their first kiss — the boathouse at Cranbrook

WEDDING RECEPTION: Oct. 1, 2005 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham

CLERGY: Father Raymond Sayers, Holy Name Church, Birmingham

MAID OF HONOR: Megan Garagiola, sister of the bride

BEST MAN: Matthew Earley, brother of the groom

WEDDING GOWN: James Clifford gown, Salon Kray Chic (formerly Suzanne's Bridal), Farmington

BRIDESMAID GOWNS: European wine-colored gowns by Bill Levkoff, Salon Kray Chic, Farmington

RINGS: Katie's platinum wedding band is from

Greenstone's in Birmingham. Dan's white-gold wedding band is from Frederick's in Bloomfield Hills. Both wedding bands are engraved with their names and wedding date.

FLOWERS: Uptown Blossoms by Nicholas created centerpieces with deep burgundy calla lilies, black magic roses with touches of white dendrobium orchids and green ivy.

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