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# countrytime

A New York City couple who first met singing a cappella in college transformed a Maine barn into a colorful celebration space filled with sweet DIY details | *photographs by Corbin Gurkin*



**THIS PAGE** "We were introduced as 'the newly married couple, Ruth and Ed,' since Ruth kept her name," says Ed Bush. "We walked out to 'Just the Way You Are,' by Bruno Mars. Everyone was clapping—it was really special."

**OPPOSITE** Watermelon gin fizzes greeted guests at cocktail hour.



"We did *a bouquet toss*. My sister ended up catching it."

**THIS PAGE** "I told my florist that I love ranunculus and peonies. I wanted asymmetrical color and didn't want anything spiny," says Ruth.

**OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP** "A tea-drinking ceremony is traditional in Chinese weddings; we used vintage teacups," says Ruth. The hand-made albums Ed gave Ruth when he proposed were displayed on the favor table. Ruth's bridal processional music was "Lucky," by Jason Mraz and Colbie Caillat. Instead of floral boutonnieres, the couple made felt hearts: "Ed had our initials embroidered on his," says Ruth. "We wrote funny vows—we didn't start until the week of the wedding and finished them a few hours before showtime," says Ed. Personalized Toms—a gift to Ruth and Ed from his sister—featured illustrations of the couple.

## Ruth & Ed

Ruth Wang, 25, and Edward Bush, 27, may seem like buttoned-up types (she works for an NYC-based hedge fund; he's an MBA student at Yale), but for their July wedding in North Yarmouth, Maine, the couple embraced the opposite vibe. "Our jobs are our jobs. We wanted to show off who we are and what we're really about," says Ruth. Take Ed's baroque proposal as an example: He gave Ruth photo albums that he had filled with scavenger-hunt clues, which led them through a trapeze lesson, a sewing class, and a tandem-bike ride before culminating in a private tour of a rooftop exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. There, he finally popped the question—"atop Big Bambú [a massive installation of 6,800 interlocking bamboo rods], to be precise," says Ed. After briefly flirting with the idea of eloping, they decided on a laid-back celebration in Ed's home state. They exchanged quirky vows (promising to "always put toothpaste on each other's toothbrushes") and hosted a dinner party for 72 guests in a barn decorated with flea market-inspired finds. The whole thing went off without a hitch, due in part to the cooperative weather. "I was obsessed with my Weather Channel app the week before," recalls Ed. "I took screen shots every few hours and tracked the forecast's evolution from 100 percent chance of rain to 100 percent chance of sunshine." Adds Ruth, "Our wedding came out exactly as we had imagined, and it felt like a miracle." —*Lauren A. Greene*





## *smart savings*

**STATIONERY** Ed and Ruth designed their own save-the-dates, invitations, and escort cards. Says Ed: "I literally drew out forty different save-the-date design options."

**DIY DECOR** Ruth asked her family to help assemble the decorations. "I had them all unfurling the paper poms days before the wedding," she says.

**SMALL PARTY** The couple stuck to a 72-person guest list and had only four attendants.

**DISCOUNTED VENDORS** Ruth and Ed found a Groupon deal for their first-choice photo-booth vendor. They used the savings to cover the vendor's travel costs.

**FAVORS** Ruth's sister's famous granola was one of two favors. "We asked her to make it, and she was totally fine with it," says Ruth.



**THIS PAGE** "We trolled the Web and made a ten-page PowerPoint of what we liked: blue chairs, colorful ribbons," says Ed. "And long tables are just more interesting. Every function you go to has round tables. We had a sweetheart table—no one got to sit next to us, so no feelings were hurt."

**OPPOSITE** For a homey feel, they served comfort food on vintage china. "We built a palette around several colors. It's a good idea not to confine yourself to just two or three," says Ruth.



**THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT** "Once we decided the wedding was going to be in a barn, the dress code became casual and light; my attire was mostly up to Ruth in terms of color, but I decided on the bow tie—and the socks were my idea," says Ed. The couple had two different party favors, lemonade ingredients in Mason jars and homemade granola, each with handmade tags to fit the barn-chic theme. The DIY escort cards were hung on strips of ribbon. Their attendants—siblings and Ed's best friend—were told to wear light colors: "I wasn't going to subject the girls to the same dress; one was dusty purple, the other was silver—close enough," says Ruth. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** "DJ Taiga inspired the older gentlemen to dance in crazy ways," says Ed. Their photo booth, which they discovered at a Brooklyn craft fair, offered props and great picture quality. The couple had a dessert bar that included pies and a chocolate-and-buttercream cake. Lobster was served alongside corn bread and fried chicken.





## Ruth's *top 10* memories

- 1 "Getting ready and relaxing—finally!—with my mom and my sister. Up until the night before, we were working on the ribbon installation."
- 2 "Reading our vows. People laughed, and then cried, and then there was applause."
- 3 "Taking creative pictures. We went with the photographer's ideas—there's a fun one of us lying in the grass covered in pink balloons."
- 4 "Seeing everyone in the lobster bibs we made. We went to the garment district, bought cloths, and stamped them with 'E+R' and the wedding date."
- 5 "Hearing the toasts from my family. We're not outwardly emotional people, so it was really lovely. My mom did some of her toast in English and directed a portion of it to me in Chinese."
- 6 "Dancing with my dad. He really likes the twist. My sister cut in halfway through, so we both had the opportunity to dance with him."
- 7 "Dancing with Ed to 'Make You Feel My Love,' by Bob Dylan, sung by Adele. Ed took dance when he was little—I tend to want to lead, and he was like, 'This one time, you can't.'"
- 8 "Lighting sparklers at the tail end of the party. We did it for the pictures, but it ended up being a lot of fun. People had a bit of trouble lighting them."
- 9 "Seeing off our guests. In Chinese weddings, the couple sees guests off, not the other way around."
- 10 "We're pretty cynical New Yorkers, so the mere fact that we pulled it all off exactly as we had planned was like, wow."



### resources

**venue** [thebarnonwalnuthill.com](http://thebarnonwalnuthill.com)  
**event planner** [maineseasonsevents.com](http://maineseasonsevents.com)  
**caterer** [11maine.com](http://11maine.com)  
**floral designer** [florafawnaweddings.com](http://florafawnaweddings.com)  
**bride's dress** [clairlafaye.com](http://clairlafaye.com)  
**groom's attire** [jlindebergusa.com](http://jlindebergusa.com) (suit); [jcrew.com](http://jcrew.com) (shirt); [brooksbrothers.com](http://brooksbrothers.com) (bow tie); [florsheimbyduckiebrown.com](http://florsheimbyduckiebrown.com) (shoes)  
**DJ** [theremixologists.com](http://theremixologists.com)  
**custom cake topper** [thesmallobject.com](http://thesmallobject.com)  
**photo booth** [magbooth.com](http://magbooth.com)  
**photographer** [corbingurkin.com](http://corbingurkin.com)