

TOP *Tier*



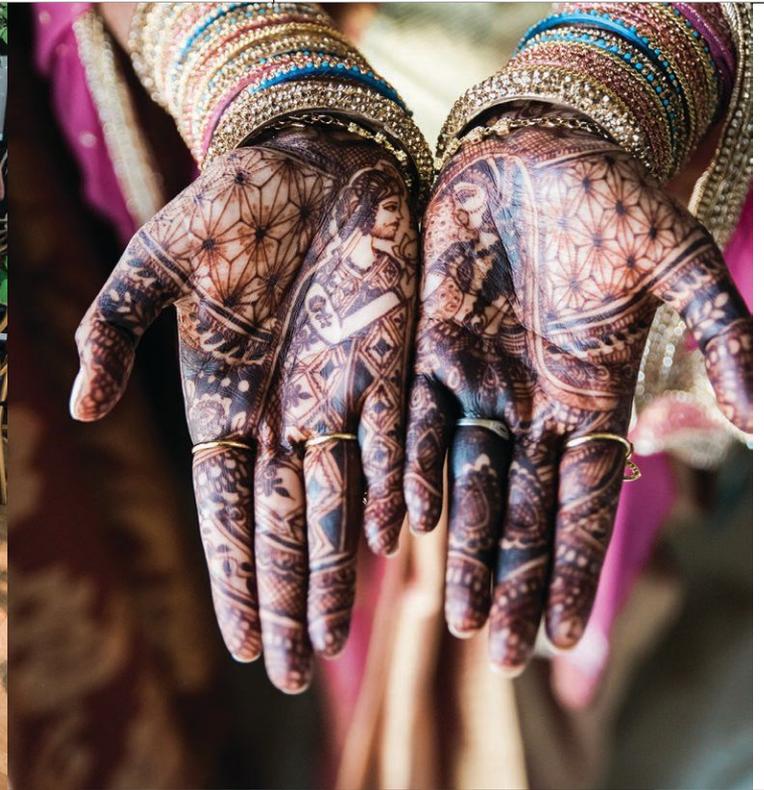
A day of cultural and contemporary spins **set the scene** for Mini Saraswati and Robert Marsh.

IT WAS DURING a staged photo shoot for Christmas cards at the DC War Memorial that Robert Marsh, a political consultant, proposed to Mini Saraswati, who was fighting the flu and came only at his persistence. He set up a tripod and got down on one knee. “I was so surprised (and still sick) that it took me a few minutes to understand,” says Mini, a Ph.D. candidate. But when she did, symptoms were replaced with joy—particularly when he surprised her again by arranging for their family to meet them for dinner at Rasika. It was a bit unconventional, and classic meets contemporary—as was their wedding.

Held at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, the day melded traditional with modern, and their American and Indian heritages. They had Christian and Hindu ceremonies; for the former, the bride’s bouquet was all white, while the latter used florals in corals, pinks and yellows (as opposed to bold reds, oranges and purples). The cuisine, meanwhile, took a “South-South” vibe (her family is from Southern India; his, from Ohio and Kentucky), with naan, and gourmet mac and cheese.

What did they enjoy the most about it all? “Getting to see all of the guests, since so many had traveled [so far] to be with us,” says Mini.

The couple did their own traveling for their honeymoon, jetting to Thailand and French Polynesia to celebrate the journey ahead. ■



Clockwise from above: When it came to the Christian ceremony, the bride donned a gown by Tarun Tahiliani. "I love the intricate beading and embroidery found in Indian fashion," she says, "but wanted a dress with the flow and layers of Western gowns"; traditional henna tattooing; topiary elephants, decorated in flowers, were at the entrance: "They are traditionally used in Indian wedding design, but we gave them a modern twist," adds Mini; her family wore traditional attire; the couple had custom signage made depicting their family, including their puppy. Opposite page, from left: The suspended cake was a focal point; the colorful tablescapes.

The List

Ceremony & Reception Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, mellonauditorium.com

Wedding Planner Christine Godsey, CG & Co Events, cgandcoevents.com

Bride's Gown Hindu Ceremony: R for Rupamani, facebook.com/rforrupamani; Christian Ceremony & Reception: Tarun Tahiliani, taruntahiliani.com

Bride's Shoes Michael Kors, michaelskors.com

Bride's Jewelry Custom and purchased in India

Bride's Hair & Makeup Hair: Bridal Hair by Remona, bridalhairbyremona.com; Makeup: Beauty 'n the Bride, beautyinthebride.com

Groom's Tux Canali, canali.com

Groom's Shoes Allen Edmonds, allenedmonds.com

Groom's Watch Tissot, tissotwatches.com

Rings Columbus Diamond Exchange, columbusdiamondexchange.com

Bridesmaids' Dresses Azazie, azazie.com

Groomsmen's Attire The Black Tux, theblacktux.com

Flower Girl's Dress Dillard's, dillards.com

Florals Sarah Khan Event Styling, sarahkhaneventstyling.com

Catering Spilled Milk Catering, spilledmilkcatering.com

Cake Buttercream Bakeshop, buttercreamdc.com

Invitations Saima Says Design, saimasaysdesign.com

Calligraphy Meant To Be Calligraphy, meanttobecalligraphy.com

Rentals Chairs: Party Rental Ltd., partyrentalltd.com; Bourbon Bar: Paisley & Jade, paisleyandjade.com; Select Tables & Bars: Edge Flowers, edgeflowers.com;

Hanging Cake Structure: Event Revolution, eventrevolution.com

Linens Nüage Designs, nuagedesigns.com

Lighting Digital Lightning, digitallightning.com

Entertainment Reception: Planet DJ Productions, planetdjproductions.com;

Christian Ceremony Strings: Cherry Blossom String Quartet, cherryblossomstrings.com

Videographer Monachetti, monachetti.com

Favors The Capital Candy Jar, thecapitalcandyjar.com

Flower Donation Repeat Roses, repeatroses.com

Guest Book Canvas & Custom Portraits: Miss Design Berry, missdesignberry.com

Draping, Steps for Stage & Dance Floor Fabrication Events, fabricationevents.com



GLOBAL TIES

When it comes to multicultural weddings, event planner Christine Godsey has a world of experience.

By Kristen Schott // Photography by Greg Powers

Christine Godsey has pulled off some elaborate shindigs. Early in her career, there were corporate events for Roger Staubach, a former Dallas cowboy and real estate mogul. More recently, under her year-old CG & Co Events (price upon request, cgandcoevents.com) firm, the Alexandria-based planner dreamed up a 500-person Indian wedding at Union Station complete with surprise fire dancers. And she's working on what she calls a "secret garden," with a waterfront reception and indoor fireworks. The latter two occasions are her specialty—grandiose, multiday, South Asian and multicultural weddings that meld tradition and creativity. It's a passion she discovered while assisting colleagues at Engaging Affairs, where she worked for more than a decade. All of the elements thrilled her senses, she says. "I found the multiple events, days and vendors exciting to manage." And, as with any wedding, she must please the couple and their kin. "Tradition is the underlying theme," she notes. "Each family, depending on where they are from, may have a different way they interpret." Godsey works with the duo on executing their vision, while also respecting their heritage. It's a mentality that has made her a go-to: She and her team excel at finding that balance, she says. Still on her wish list? Covering a large pool with Plexiglas and bringing in costumed entertainers to perform underneath. "The second... is to construct a custom temporary venue from the ground up." We have no doubt she'll do both.