



love notes

After a romantic elopement, newlyweds Scott Ginsburg and Gina Rogers return to Dallas to host a jazzy reception for 400.

BY JESSICA ELLIOTT PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN KARLISCH

Gina

GINA ROGERS AND SCOTT GINSBURG didn't want an extravagant ceremony with hundreds of guests, so the only witness to their exchange of vows on Little Palm Island, a private resort off the coast of the Florida Keys, was their officiant. "We wanted to keep it about us rather than everyone else, and just kind of run away," Gina says.

Following a two-week honeymoon in Scotland, the couple returned to attend their reception—a lavish, jazz-themed party. "We didn't want it to be a traditional wedding reception," Gina says. "We didn't want the monotony of it all. We wanted something where people walked away thinking, 'Wow, that was a cool party.'"

With just four months to plan the July 29, 2006 bash, Gina turned to her good friend, Mary Wright-Shah of Diamond Affairs, and Todd Fiscus of Todd Event Design Creative Services, to create a lounge atmosphere befitting an upscale cocktail party. To accommodate 400 guests, they built a two-tiered, air-conditioned tent behind Arlington Hall. The top tier, or the lounge area, was modeled after the Rainbow Room in New York City and featured a 30-foot bar, 14 bartenders, and an enormous chandelier with crystal draping. The lower tent housed the performance space, tables and seating, the bands, and the dance floor.

Because the couple met by chance at Hotel ZaZa's Dragonfly restaurant, they incorporated dragonflies into the theme. Paradise Design Co. printed the symbol on their invitations, and Fiscus even worked the motif into the lighting and decorated gold safety railings with dragonfly finials. Other artistic touches included white-chocolate outdoor carpeting and ice console tables. "It was very clean, but still very elegant and beautiful," Gina says.

Even the evening's lounge vibe was reflective of the couple. "Scott and I both have a very strong interest in music, so music, entertaining, and jazz were integral parts of our theme," Gina says. And they brought in three different bands to prove it: the Marc Toussaint Combo, a swing band, set the mood before the evening's highlight, Grammy Award-winning trumpet player Chris Botti, took the stage. Party band Sauce kept guests entertained long after the newlyweds exited. **D**

