



vintage fresh

MENG WANG & ALBERT CHEN

GEORGE WASHINGTON
MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL
ALEXANDRIA, VA
5.28.16

Photographs by
ELIZABETH FOGARTY PHOTOGRAPHY

Event Design & Catering by
HEIRLOOM CATERING & EVENT DESIGN

➤ This love story begins where many do: in college. Albert noticed Meng at a local club during their senior year at Penn State. “She was the most attractive person I’d ever seen,” he remembers, and he figured a standard introduction wasn’t going to cut it. So, he challenged her to a dance-off instead. Meng didn’t hold up her end of the competition, but she did give him her number. Their first date stretched from a Chinese restaurant to an on-campus screening of *The Social Network* back to a bar to hang out with a few of Albert’s friends. The pair bonded over similar senses of humor and family culture, and things moved quickly—when Albert got a job in DC after graduation, Meng moved with him.

Three years after that first date, Albert planned his proposal for a trip the two took to Hong Kong, Meng’s hometown. Out on a rainy-day hike with her family, Albert quietly slipped away, cuing Meng’s mother to hand her daughter an iPad with a recorded message. As Meng watched a slide show of their relationship and listened to all the reasons her partner was grateful for her presence in his life, Albert reappeared. He asked Meng for her hand in a mixture of Chinese and English.



THE WELCOME STATION (ABOVE) INCLUDED WILD BERRY-BASIL AND CITRUS-RASPBERRY INFUSED WATERS. BEFORE EXCHANGING VOWS UNDER A BIRCH-WOOD ARBOR (RIGHT), THE COUPLE PRESENTED THEIR MOTHERS WITH ROSES IN A CEREMONY OF GRATITUDE.

After connecting through Instagram, Meng knew Heirloom founder **Vicky Theodorou** was the one to bring her wedding vision to life. Inspiration for the event began where inspiration for all good parties should: the food. (Healthy eating and local ingredients were top priority for the bride, an instructor and assistant manager at Corepower Yoga.) During cocktail hour, guests snacked on seasonal berries, house-cured meats, honey-paprika hummus, jalapeño-infused feta, and more from a custom farmers-market station. The hundred attendees moved inside for a family-style meal at three long rows of whitewashed farm tables decorated with low-slung compotes of David Austin roses, peonies, and dusty miller. The groom himself made the Chinese-zodiac signs that directed guests to their places, where they passed plates of matcha-roasted cauliflower and rainbow carrots, crispy Szechuan pork ribs, baked halibut, and torchio pasta with braised summer squash. Friends and family sipped basil gimlets and peach sangria as they watched the newlyweds sway to “So Close” by Jon McLaughlin for their first dance, and took home custom beer cups as favors. The couple honeymooned in Costa Rica, then returned home to Fairfax, where Albert works in cybersecurity.



BOHO BESTIES

Meng's bridesmaids chose their own dresses in blush and neutral shades. The bride picked up their floral crowns on a whim from the Urban Outfitters clearance section.

BUILT-IN DECOR

The Masonic Temple's Memorial Hall features a 17-foot-tall statue of George Washington and six stained-glass windows.



TWIRLING VINES OF PITTOSPORUM, PLUMOSA, IVY, AND SEEDED EUCALYPTUS FORMED A 14-FOOT GARLAND FOR THE HEAD TABLE.



THE DETAILS

FLOWERS & DECOR: Heirloom Catering & Event Design
FURNITURE RENTALS: Something Vintage
TABLETOP RENTALS & CHAIRS: Party Rental, Ltd.
BRIDE'S GOWN: Galia Lahav
HAIR: Styles by Sal
GROOM'S ATTIRE: J. Crew
MUSIC: Alex Nepa for Mint DJ Events
TRANSPORTATION: Reston Limousine
CAKE: Rosie Nguyen (friend of the bride)
INVITATIONS: Wedding Paper Divas
CALLIGRAPHY: Allison Dee Calligraphy
LIGHTING: Frost Lighting

