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# weddings

2010

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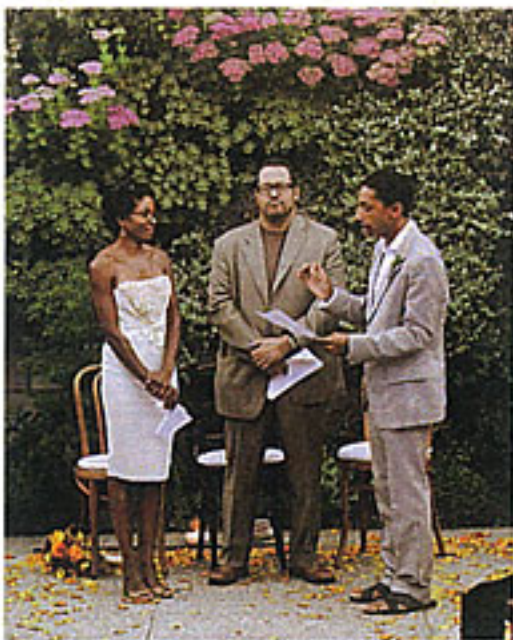
## Hitting the Right Note

LisaGay Hamilton and Robin D.G. Kelley

When they decided to get married, LisaGay Hamilton, 45, and Robin D.G. Kelley, 47, wanted to throw a party, not a wedding. In fact, the word *wedding* never appeared on their invitations. There was no gown (a knee-length cocktail dress suited the bride better), no strict schedule (the groom simply announced to the crowd that they were about to begin the ceremony), and no string quartet (instead, their son played an African drum before a favorite local jazz trio took over). But when it came to the vows, Robin, a writer, surprised LisaGay with something traditionally, classically romantic—a love song. He wrote the melody and lyrics, incorporating hidden details only the bride would recognize, then hired a singer to perform. Despite the lack of convention, as parties go, this one was perfectly composed.



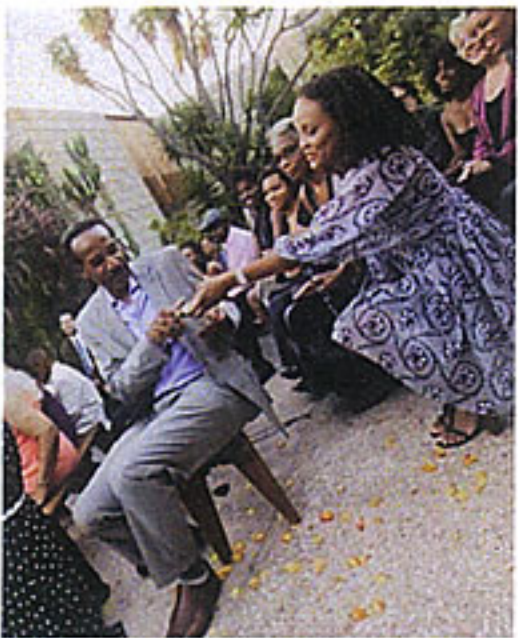
LisaGay twisted baby's breath in her hair. Her bouquet of orchids and treasure calla lilies was by [petalforest.com](http://petalforest.com).



The casual ceremony included water poured out in honor of relatives who had passed away and self-written vows.



The song that Robin composed for LisaGay was similar to the many poems he had written for her over the years.



Guests passed around a box that contained the couple's rings, adding their good wishes and blessings.



Robin wore a collar green in his lapel as a nod to jazz pianist Thelonious Monk, whose biography he had just written.



LisaGay wanted the recycled-wood tables to be seen, so she cut an earth-tone African fabric into strips for runners.



Beacon, a restaurant in Los Angeles, catered the Asian-inspired meal. Dessert was miniature cakes and pies, plus fruit.



The location, the Smog Shoppe, is on an industrial stretch of La Cienega Boulevard. The couple dashed across for a photo.



Guests left with a copy of *Nothing but a Man*, one of Robin and LisaGay's favorite romantic movies.