

诗如醉, 乐起舞

-- 伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻婚礼纪实

不到四岁随父母从中国来美的莫夕闻 (Zach) 和 具有一半立陶宛血统一半英国血统的金发女郎伊莎贝尔 (Isabel Fairbanks) 在纽约曼哈顿音乐学院读研究生时相识, 相知, 继而相爱。10年后, 他们在具有厚重历史沉淀, 海浪吻岸, 绿草如茵, 鲜花盛开的罗德岛 (State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, RI) 布雷斯托镇(Bristol) 走进了婚礼的殿堂。

一 婚礼之地

罗德岛位于美国东部, 别名是“海洋州”。西面是高地, 地形逐渐往东倾斜至大西洋, 形成巨大的那雷甘色海湾 (Narragansett Bay), 海湾里有30几个小岛。全州宽仅60 公里 (37 miles), 长为77 公里 (48 miles), 可海岸线却长达618公里 (384 miles)。它是美国50州里最小的一州, 仅3140平方公里 (1214 sq mi)。却是美国人口密度第二大的州, 每平方公里388个人 (1006 per sq mi), 仅次于新泽西州。

布雷斯托镇是个半岛, 它的西边是那雷甘色海湾, 东边是蒙特希望海湾。全镇50%以上的面积被海水覆盖, 7 个大港口, 可同时供800多艘船停泊。布雷斯托镇自1662年第一批从英国来的移民(Pilgrims) 上岛后, 经过了与本地印第安人的多次战争与谈判, 才于1746年正式成立。美国独立战争时期, 布雷斯托镇因为其极为重要的海港位置成为英国军队重点攻击的对象, 两次被英军炸为平地。布雷斯托镇著名于美国的是它自1777年以来每年一次极为浓重的大型独立节纪念活动, 吸引很多人特意来观光。可惜我们7月6日才到那, 没有目睹它的盛况。布雷斯托镇以其深厚的历史渊源, 文化底蕴和极为美丽的海滨风景成为美国的旅游胜地之一。可惜, 我们来美国30了, 这还是第一次来。

西方的风俗是女方负责婚礼的筹备和费用。我虽然自告奋勇地承担了部分费用, 但一点也没有参与筹备。伊莎贝尔的父母极为细致认真毫无怨言地为婚礼做了所有的计划和安排。



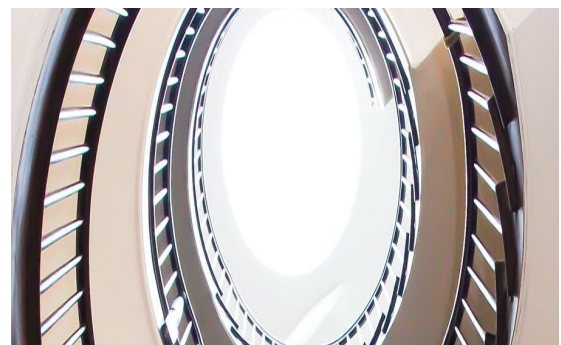


他们选择了布雷斯托海港旅馆 (Bristol Harbor Inn)作为新郎新娘以及参加婚礼的客人的下榻处，并为客人预留了旅馆三分之二的房间。他们特别为新郎新娘订了占据整个高层楼的大房间 (Penthouse)考虑到他们那些天的辛苦。这个旅馆的地址是259 Thames Street, Bristol, RI, 背靠布雷斯托海港，从入口处的停车场漫步十几米就看见浩渺的港口和停泊在那的数不清的船只。

他们选择了位于500 Hope Street的古老而优雅的林璫楼 (Linden Place)作为举行婚礼的地方。离旅馆非常近，走路十分钟左右即到。

林璫楼 (Linden Place)建于1810 年，造价六万美元；建筑师是Russell Warren。这栋 被美誉为“建筑皇冠之珠” (architectural crown jewel) 的林璫楼是当时盛行于美国的建筑风格 --- 联邦风格(Federal-Style) 的标准杰作。建筑风格取名为联邦风格，深刻体现出当时的时代风尚，和力求摆脱欧洲影响而追求独立的美国精神。联邦建筑风格实际上是经由欧洲格鲁吉亚 (Georgia) 建筑风格改造而成，具有宫廷建筑的大器和精致。使林璫楼如此著名的是它从一楼旋转至四楼的没有其他支撑结构的旋转楼梯。这是目前在美国建筑史上少有的几个特例。

林璫楼的第一任主人是当时当地最有声望的德沃尔福 (George DeWolf) 家族。该家族靠贩卖奴隶起家。在海运是唯一的交通运输年代，他们利用布雷斯托得天独厚的地理位置发达起来。这个家族及其后代在这栋房子里住了177年。四任美国总统来此作过客，他们分别是，Presidents James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, Ulysses Grant 以及Chester Arthur。好莱坞女演员Ethel Barrymore 嫁入此家做媳妇。1973年，好莱坞著名电影《伟大的盖茨比》在这里拍摄。该电影据美国作家菲茨杰拉德 ([F. Scott Fitzgerald](#)) 的同名小说改编。



由于这栋楼的特殊历史意义和美学价值，1988年，当地的一个文物保护非盈利民间机构自己集资并向申请政府资助，以2百万美元从私人房主手里买下了这栋楼。从此，该栋楼开始了它

崭新的历史篇章，成了布雷斯托镇的文化活动中心。这里有博物馆，举行各种文化活动，并允许私人租用搞大型活动，比如婚礼。

二 婚礼仪式

在伊莎贝尔和她父母的精心策划安排下，在风景如此绚丽的海港小城布雷斯托镇，在具有如此厚重历史传统的林登楼，伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻的婚礼于2016年7月7日下午5:30如期开始。

婚礼在林登楼硕大而优雅的后花园举行。绿树环绕，五彩缤纷的花朵争相点缀。昨天婚礼彩排还炎热得汗流浹背，现在却是微雨后的一片清凉。

婚礼有现场乐队，由新娘新郎的音乐家朋友们组成。为了保护那些珍贵的乐器不受天气的影响，现场乐队设置在临时搭在后花园的帐篷里。婚礼上演奏的音乐是伊莎贝尔和她妈妈精心挑选的。

客人最先入坐在事先整齐摆好的椅子上。新郎的客人坐右边，新娘的客人坐左边。在新郎的客人中，我惊奇地看见了Rose (柔斯)。柔斯是内特(Nate)的妈妈。内特是夕闻高中时结识的朋友，是这次婚礼上夕闻的首席伴男，是结婚证书上新郎的见证人。自内特和夕闻成为好朋友以来，柔斯一直帮助和参与夕闻的成长。她曾在自己的家里为夕闻举行钢琴演奏会，邀请她的亲朋好友来参加，并备点心招待听众，让他能在去参加音乐学院考试之前有足够的锻炼机会。她曾和现已去世的丈夫来我家，和我一起讨论孩子们成长中的事情。去年底，已经离家十几年的夕闻回家乡开一个小型音乐会，说是给父母的圣诞节礼物。柔斯也来了。尽管这样，我依然没有预料到她会出现在夕闻的婚礼上。我们同住一个城市，我们之间自孩子们毕业后，少有联系。每次见面，都因为孩子的活动。是一种什么样的深厚情感能让她几十年如一日地关注着夕闻的成长？能不辞辛苦，不计费用地来参加夕闻的婚礼？我对内特并没有如此的付出。除了感动，我只有无地自容的惭愧。

新郎和他的六个伴男穿着一色的燕尾服，认真而虔诚地排成一排在右边，等待着新娘的到来。新娘的6个伴娘也相继入位，挺直地站在左边。伴娘伴男们都是新郎新娘多年来的朋友；而且大多是音乐界的，有作曲的，演奏大提琴，小提琴的，钢琴演奏的，唱歌演员，戏剧演员，乐团指挥，等等。新郎的六个伴男里，有他自高中时代的好友内特和刘宏旭。



亲人们紧接着一对一对地伴随着乐队演奏的音乐入场了。选用的音乐是十九世纪末二十世纪初英国著名作曲家爱德华·埃尔加 (Edward Elgar) 的英格玛变奏曲 (*Enigma Variations*) 里的一个著名片段Nimrod。这个只有3分54秒的管弦乐曲立刻把人们带到一个美妙，浩瀚，迷惑而有些许伤感的气氛里。恰如当事人的心境。请按这个链接倾听这段音乐。

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhnMd1JI7SA>

最先是新郎的爸爸挽着90岁的外婆随着音乐的节奏一步一步走来，在指定的位子入座。新郎的妈妈和继父手挽着手踏着音乐的节拍也走来了，接着新娘的父母亲手挽着手走来，父亲把母亲安坐在左边第一排位置上，转身去接他的女儿。

在德裔法国作曲家奥芬巴赫 (Offenbach) 的著名音乐片段 Barcarolle (中译为《船歌》) 的乐队演奏声中, 爸爸挽着身着漂亮婚纱的女儿, 慢慢地, 优雅地, 却一步一步毫不犹豫地走来了。全体起立, 在优美迷人的意境中, 欢迎新娘的到来。请按下面的链接欣赏这段音乐。

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7czptgEvvU>



婚礼主持人竟然也是莫夕闻高中的同学和好友。这个Andrew Mazur, 几年不见, 出落得如此成熟有主见了。这是他第四次做婚礼主持人。做得有条有理, 气宇宣昂, 相模像样的。真是“士别三日, 刮目相看”。

婚礼的开幕式竟然是诗歌朗诵。新娘和新郎的父母用这种方式首先表达对孩子婚礼的祝贺和他们共同生活的祝福。

新郎的继父瑞克 (Rick Wikander) 首先朗诵英文诗“ A Blessing For Wedding” (婚礼祝贺)。这首诗的作者是简·赫希菲尔德 (Jane Hirshfield), 现在仍然活跃在美国诗坛的一位女诗人, 她出版了 8 部诗集, 是美国诗歌协会现任主席。这首诗歌慷慨地邀请了宇宙的万事万物, 春夏秋冬, 成熟的柿子, 橡树的落叶, 天上的雨滴和光亮, 雪的香味, 那美丽的五颜六色; 邀请了世界上所有的人, 即将出生的和正在出生的, 死去的和正在死去的, 你爱的和从未见过面的, 正在饥饿着的和累极了的, 来共同祝贺和见证今天的婚礼。面对如此宏大的祝福和集体见证, 新郎新娘啊, 让你们今天的誓言, 说出来了的, 未说出来的, 都一字不漏地保留在你心里, 无论你醒着, 还是睡着, 让这些誓言的严厉和温柔, 责任和付出毫无遮掩地贯穿在你们今后的每一个日子里。(诗歌原文见附件一) 还能有比这首诗展示的更恢宏博大的婚礼的开始吗?

作为新郎的妈妈, 我选择了两首中文诗赞美这一对新人多年来的相互奉献和支持。这两首诗分别是未名氏的《如果你乐意》和席慕容的《伴侣》。因为婚礼上大部分人都不懂中文, 这两首诗都翻译成了英文。在我诵读一首中文诗后, 英文翻译由瑞克朗读。两首诗都动人地陈述着一对新人之间的相互许诺。《如果你乐意》更多地可以理解为丈夫对妻子的承诺, 尽一切可能, 倾其所有, 为她提供一个自由, 宽松, 美化的生活环境; 《伴侣》则十分清晰地表达着妻子对丈夫坚强而温柔的永远的支持。(诗歌原文和翻译见附件二)

伊莎贝尔的母亲露丝(Ruth Fairbanks) 接着朗诵了莎士比亚的第116首十四行诗。这是莎士比亚一首极为经典的爱情诗。這首詩強力阐述爱情的真谛。愛情不是可以任意改變的。愛是忠貞的（永不動搖），堅定的（不被曲折）；有價值的（其價值是難以了解的），愛是能接受時間考驗的。詩主旨很易了解，但使用的文字不易了解。是反着写的。特地把这首十四行诗及其中文翻译呈现如下，以便于随时欣赏，反复琢磨。

116	第一百一十六首
Let me not to the marriage of true minds Admit impediments. Love is not love Which alters when it alteration finds, Or bends with the remover to remove: O, no! it is an ever-fix'd mark, That looks on tempests and is never shaken; It is the star to every wand'ring bark, Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken. Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks Within his bending sickle's compass come; Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, But bears it out even to the edge of doom: If this be error and upon me proved, I never writ, nor no man ever loved.	我絕不承認兩顆真心的結合 有任何障礙。這樣的愛不是真愛 若是遇有變節的機會就改變， 或是被強勢剝離就屈服： 哦，那不是愛！愛是堅定的烽火， 凝視著狂濤而不動搖； 愛是嚮導迷航船隻的明星， 高度可測，實價無量。 愛不受時光影響，即使紅唇粉頰 終會被歲月的鐮刀砍伐； 愛不隨分分秒秒、日日月月改變， 愛不畏時間磨鍊，直到末日盡頭。 如果有人可證明我所解不實， 我從未寫過，而無人曾真愛過

婚礼中的最后一首诗是新娘的母亲写的，由新娘的父亲诵读。诗名是《太空遨游》（Villanelle: Celestial Navigation）。Villanelle是一种诗歌体。（诗歌原文见附件三）

《太空遨游》并不容易读懂。反复诵读和思索后，在没有请教作者的前提下，我是这样理解它的。这首诗应该跟前面她妈妈读的莎士比亚的第116首十四行诗结合起来理解。莎士比亚在他的第116首十四行诗里，缔造了一个极为理想的爱情王国。这个王国就是《太空遨游》诗里描述的太空。这对新人站在可以通往那个理想爱情王国的桥头，希望这座桥能让他们共同抵达那理想的境界，可是怎么漫长的距离，怎么才能去呢，现代生活中人人手持的导航仪GPS在通往理想世界的道上毫无用处。诗歌告诉他们，你们必须一起抵达(rising together)，路途不仅遥远，还充满不安和恐惧，可是你们已经走在通往理想爱情王国的桥上了，你们在一点一点地往那儿走，你们一定能找到通向那理想世界的途径。诗歌的最后一段描述最终达到那个爱情理想王国的境界：在灵魂的世界里，尽管GPS在这里一无所用，你们靠得更紧了，只有在这个理想的爱情世界里你们才可能永不分离。

这首《太空遨游》的诗与莎士比亚的第116首十四行诗组成了一个系列。体现了伊莎贝尔父母对这对新人的良苦用心和殷切期望。实在是令人感动。

紧接着是新郎新娘交换婚誓。首先是婚礼主持人带着新娘向新郎表述她的誓言，主持人读一句，新娘重复一句；然后是新郎向新娘表决。相互宣誓的形式和誓言的内容是一模一样的。西

方婚礼大多有交换婚誓这一项目，但婚誓可以有不同内容和版本。伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻的婚誓是这样的：

I ____, take you ____, to be my beloved husband/wife. To have and to hold, for better or for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish, now and forever. This is my solemn vow.

第三个项目是交换戒指。戒指是由新娘和新郎各自的首席伴娘和伴男保管着的。当婚礼主持人宣布交换戒指时，首先是新娘把戒指戴在新郎左手无名指上，然后是新郎把戒指戴在新娘左手的无名指上。

先新娘后新郎的顺序是因为对新娘的尊重。新娘必须首先接受新郎，婚礼才能进行。

婚礼的第四个项目是在结婚证书上签字。新娘新郎首先各自在上面签字，接着新娘新郎委托的各自的见证人签字，最后是持有执照的婚礼主持人签字。

婚礼的最后一个项目是婚礼主持人宣布伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻从现在起正式结为夫妻了。全体起立鼓掌热烈祝贺。

结婚仪式结束后，是各种方式组合的照相。客人可以随意喝酒，品尝各种小吃点心，自由交谈。新娘新郎的家人和朋友相互认识，直到婚礼的另一个重大部分，婚宴的开始。

三 婚宴

婚宴在属于林璫楼系列的舞厅(Ballroom) 里举行。这个厅大到可以放13个圆桌，容纳130人宴会和跳舞。新娘和新郎以及他们的伴娘伴男们是婚宴的主角。他们的桌子由四个长方形桌子摆成两个“L”形，然后再把两个“L”桌子横着摆在一起，在舞厅的正中前方。其他八个圆桌在这之后交错摆开。DJ及音乐设备放置在舞厅的左后角。

客人们入席之前，在门口的桌上找到自己的名片。名片是烫金印刷的，上面写着入席桌的号码，以便进去后对号入座。宴会厅的桌上放着同样的印着烫金名字的名片，每个客人先找到自己的桌子，然后在桌上找自己的名字，对名字入座。每个人的座位上还放着烫金印刷的宴会食品单。

伊莎贝尔的父母亲及和父母同辈的亲戚在第一桌，夕闻的外婆，母亲继父，从中国特意来参加他的婚礼的干妈及姨妈舅舅舅妈们坐第二桌。夕闻的爸爸，叔叔婶婶，从中国特意来参加他婚礼的姑姑以及表姐侄儿第三桌。夕闻有六位表姐妹和表弟从美国各地飞来参加了他的婚礼，他们被分配坐在其他的桌上，与伊莎贝尔和夕闻的朋友们在一起。



大家就座后，伊莎贝尔的父亲首先致词欢迎和感谢大家不远万里来庆祝伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻的婚礼。客人们来自美国七个不同的州，还有来自中国和加拿大的。他用中文向来自中国的客人们说“谢谢”，“欢迎”。他很有哲理地说到“婚礼”和“婚姻”的区别。婚礼是一个仪式，一个事件，今晚就将结束。而婚姻是一种生活方式，今天才开始。他接着引用了他教学中接触到的一个法庭案件中关于民间婚姻的定义进一步阐述婚姻的实质。这段法律定义很难翻译，我只好原封不动地放在这，希望更有水平，而且有兴趣来翻译它的人完成这一工作。

Civil marriage is at once a deeply personal commitment to another human being and a highly public celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family. . . . Because it fulfils yearnings for security, safe haven, and connection that express our common humanity, civil marriage is an esteemed institution, and the decision whether and whom to marry is among life's momentous acts of self-definition.

他总结了10年来他观察到的伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻一起成长的过程。他从两个方面来看他们的成长。一方面，作为个人，他们肩并肩地各自发展了自己的个性和特长，取得了在各自领域里的信心，智慧和优雅。另方面，他们又在各自的成长中相互影响，今天溶为一体的伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻的结合实际上是渗透着两人10年来的相互陪伴，亲密和奉献的。他们还有着共同的职业。他们一起成功地演奏了许多美丽的乐曲。他们的结合水到渠成。

最后，他邀请大家举杯为新娘新郎祝贺。（发言稿见附件四）



紧接着，伊莎贝尔的父母在的罗伯特·舒曼(Robert Schumann) 钢琴四重奏Op.47, III, Andante Cantabile音乐中翩翩起舞。他们舞步优雅，神情投入，让人感动和羡慕。

当古典音乐转换成现代歌曲《我的心伴随着你》(My Heart With You)时，伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻在歌声中深情起舞。这首歌词可以说非常贴切地表达了这对新人10年相识8年恋爱的感情经历。这首歌是伊莎贝尔悉心选择的。音乐和歌词的欣赏请见：

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlajS_d3fHc。（歌词见附件五）

激动的年轻人们在伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻跳舞之后，也上去快乐地跳起来。

在舞曲暂停之际，夕闻从自己的位子上站起来说话了。

以前就有很多人向我夸过夕闻的幽默感，伊莎贝尔跟我说过夕闻的幽默是她选择他的众多因素之一。可是作为妈妈，我很少有机会体会儿子的这个特点。这很大原因是我这个妈妈太没有幽默感了，常常傻傻地懂不了机智的幽默。他的幽默是从他爸爸那承传的。夕闻的这篇发言从整体上利用双关语 Supplies vs. Surprise 为其幽默构思，贯穿整个发言。开场白的第一句，第二句，和第四句就是幽默。记得在现场，当夕闻说完开场白的最后一句时，全场哄然大笑，我却不知所以然。后来从夕闻那里要来了他的发言稿，读了好多遍。18岁高中毕业离家便开始独立生活的孩子，一年到节假日才有机会和孩子相处几天，他外在成就，他做的具体工作也许可以知道一些，可他作为一个人的修养，情商和内在素质成长到什么程度却很难为父母所真正了解。每次有机会读到夕闻写的东西，哪怕是一个电子邮件，一个留言，一张礼卡，我都很珍惜，很认真地读，“文如其人”，从那里我了解他内在的成才。细读他的讲稿，感觉他写得非常好，从自己独特的音乐职业角度和切身的经历来写对伊莎贝尔的赞美，对她的认识理性而有深度，感到很欣慰。可是我却无法理解其中的幽默。向 Rick求助，他说了半天我还是体会不出来，于是Rick向夕闻求助，以为夕闻可以比他了解多一点中国思维，更好地帮助我理解。可夕闻的回答是“ Oh, No, I cannot do it. Good Luck! ”。幽默是智慧，理解幽默也需要智慧。面对我这种不开窍的脑袋，他们都却步了。我也只好放弃解读。把他的讲稿作为附件六，各自理会吧。

讲完话，夕闻独奏了 Alexander Scriabin 的钢琴奏鸣曲(Plano Sonata NO. 3, Op. 23,) 第三章(III. Andante) 献给伊莎贝尔。第三章缓慢抒情地传递如海洋般深邃而丰富的复杂情感。维科全书里是这样描述这个音乐片段的 “ A sea of feelings, tender and sorrowful: love, sorrow, vague desires, inexplicable thoughts, illusions of a delicate dream ”。音乐素养较高的Rick 评价说 “夕闻极为完美优雅地通过演奏这个钢琴曲，向伊莎贝尔表示了他深刻而热烈的情感。伊莎贝尔一定懂。”

夕闻的钢琴独奏后，婚宴在Glenn Gould 演奏的巴赫D小调协奏曲（Concerto in D minor (after Alessandro Marcello), II. Adagio - J. S. Bach）静谧而悠扬的乐声中开始了。因为林澄楼不提供食物，婚宴的所有食品都是从外面定好送来的。请点击欣赏此音乐
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXTowBNY5xU&feature=youtu.be&t=2m22s>

宴会进行之中，我被邀请说话。第一次要在婚礼上说话，第一次要用英文面对这么多盛装的客人来说话却又没有讲稿，心里非常紧张。尽管我心里早想好了要说什么，可是行前非常忙碌，一直抽不出时间写个讲稿。在从麦迪逊（Madison）去波士顿的飞机上，利用那段时间我在iPad上粗略地理了个提纲。那就是我为这次讲话的唯一准备。拿着iPad上阵了，抖抖索索的。可是，一开口，我就镇静下来了，不就是把想了要说的话说出来吗，说就是了。结果iPad也根本没看，就说了下面一段故事和祝福。

当伊莎贝尔和莫夕闻决定七月七日为结婚日时，一定考虑过许许多多的因素，可是他们绝没有意识到七月七日是中国传统文化中的一个重要日子。这一天是中国传统的七夕节。这一天与中国四大著名民间故事之一的《牛郎织女》有着极为紧密的联系。在许多版本的牛郎织女故事中，我选择了一个最接地气最低调的版本，简单地介绍了这个故事。这个故事的特殊性在于，它不同于常见的少男少女的爱情故事，它表现的是婚后夫妻所面临的困难，和几乎不可以逾越的障碍，它歌颂的是夫妻间的坚贞不渝。夕闻和伊莎贝尔的结合从某种角度来看与牛郎织女的结合有相似之处。一个是来自东方文化的，在粗茶淡饭艰苦奋斗的移民家庭磨练大的男孩，一个是来自西方文化的，在锦衣玉食高雅富裕的教授家庭成长的女孩；他们选择的结婚日无意中与中国传统文化的“夫妻节”，“情人节”巧合。这真的是巧合？还是命运？像牛郎织女这对夫妻一样，他们的共同生活一定会要面对许许多多的问题，真心希望和相信他们也会相互信任，共同面对。坚贞不渝。（发言提纲见附件七）

穿插在婚宴中的还有伊莎贝尔自初中时代起的好朋友Hillary 的讲话。她用写信的形式，用二人称的对话方式，追叙了与伊莎贝尔一起长大，一起爱好音乐，一起成长为专业音乐家的艰辛和满足的过程，和在这个过程中她们的淘气，帮助和分担。夕闻的高中好友内特和宏旭也分别讲话回忆他们同学时代的趣事，和毕业后的相互支持，以及这些支持和理解对各自成长的影响。在成长的道路上，曾经的同学情谊因为共同的认识和观念发展为终身的友谊。所有的发言都很真诚感人。（Hillary 发言稿见附件八，Nate 发言稿见附件九，宏旭发言稿暂缺）

婚宴的主食和甜食之间有意留了比较长的间隔，让客人们活动和交流。DJ 放出了诱人的舞蹈音乐。客人们都随着音乐跳起舞来。舞厅里顿时沸腾起来。大多数年轻人都跳起来，伴随着各种各样的音乐跳起各种姿势各种步伐的舞。我们也跃跃欲试，终于按耐不住那诱惑，我跳起来，接着和Rick, 和久莲，和蓉桂，和点点，和可粒，或一起跳，或各自跳，最后我们一起尽情地跳起来了。

婚宴的那道甜食是婚礼蛋糕。在跳舞的热烈气氛中，婚礼蛋糕浓重出场了。



伊莎贝尔的妈妈为婚礼准备了两种立陶宛风格的婚礼蛋糕。那个圆形的名叫 Momofuku 婚礼蛋糕"Ragoulis" 蛋糕，另一种像松塔的是叫Ragoulis"婚礼蛋糕，又叫Sakois; Šakotis 的中文翻译是蛋糕树，或树蛋糕。它是立陶宛各种重要活动中，尤其是婚礼中不可缺少的甜品。已有500多年的历史。

新娘的姨妈特意向大家介绍了这种蛋糕复杂的制作方式。它是在火上一边滚动一边烤成的。

大家可以在这个网址上学习它的做法：

<http://www.lithuanianhomecooking.com/home/tree-cake>

很可惜的是，大家跳舞的热情如火如荼，没有仔细来品味这么昂贵且有民族风格的婚礼蛋糕。后来想起来，感到特别可惜，谁知道还有不有下一次邂逅这种婚礼蛋糕的机会。

时间在欢乐中飞快地流失，转眼接近11点。场地租约到点了。DJ 换了音乐，邀请伊莎贝尔的父母再次跳舞；DJ 本来期望伊莎贝尔和夕闻再跳一次舞，并为他们换了音乐。可是他们在忙着别的事情，迟迟不见出场，DJ只好又再次换了适合大众群舞的音乐。最后一支舞曲结束时正好11点。大家依依不舍地离开了这个充满音乐舞蹈的欢乐之地。

伊莎贝尔和她妈妈一起精心准备了一年的极其人文和艺术的婚礼快乐地落幕了。

伊莎贝尔和夕闻长达8年的恋爱在父母们的殷切期望和朋友们的满满祝福里进入了新阶段。希望他们踏踏实实地开始他们的新生活。

那天，我回到旅馆很久以后，才看见伊莎贝尔的妈妈刚回旅馆。不禁一阵内疚。我应该留在那里帮助收拾现场的。

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补记：

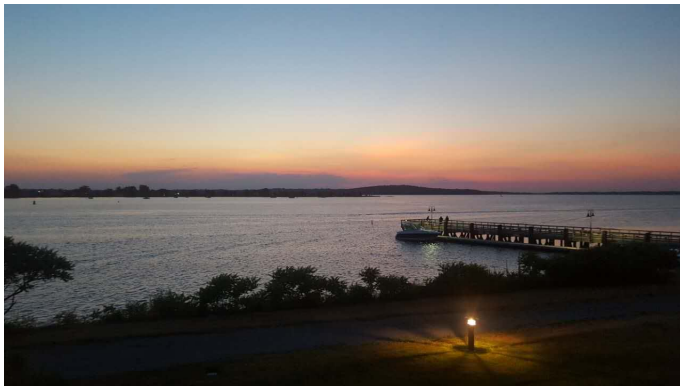
不是婚礼的一部分，但和婚礼紧密相连的是7月6日的婚礼演习，和演习后的晚宴。

7月6日天气极为炎热。气温高达93度。婚礼演习于下午4点在林澄楼后院开始。刚在旅馆安顿下来，就连忙换衣化妆去演习。夕闻90岁的外婆也跟着我们步行去那。真佩服她的毅力和童心。除了我们新娘新郎家的人穿着正规外，新娘新郎及他们的伴娘伴男都简装出任。演习虽简洁，但我们都知道了第二天正式婚礼上我们各自的责任和次序，没有演习还真是不行的。

西方婚礼的习俗是婚礼演习之后，由新郎的父母出资请所有参加演习的去盛宴(rehearsal Dinner)一番，提前庆祝。一周之前，夕闻跟我商量是不是也请特意从中国来到亲戚们和舅舅姨妈一起来参加，我欣然同意了，并感叹他的成熟和周到。所以，7月6日新娘和新郎两边的与父母同辈的亲戚们都参加了这一盛宴。大家涂脂抹粉，穿金戴银，正装出席。点点虽是小辈，可她为夕闻去机场接客人，去旅馆拿东西，进进出出地忙了一下午，她作为特例也出席了这个宴会。可惜的是蓉桂的飞机一再推迟和晚点，等到她终于抵达宴会厅，餐厅要关门了。



这个宴会是在Boat House Waterfront Dining, 227 Schooner Dr, Tiverton, RI. 这个在Sakonnet 河畔的餐馆是新英格兰各州唯一被评为美国前100名最好的露天餐厅(has been named among Open Table's recently released list of 100 Best Alfresco Restaurants in America, the only restaurant on the list located in New England.) 我们去的那天特别热，所以露天餐厅搭了个帐篷，我们的宴会就是在帐篷下与浩瀚的水和美丽的天边晚霞一起共餐的。左下的照片就是海燕那天拍的。



在婚礼之前，有这么一个机会和来自各地的为着同一个目标的朋友们，双方的父母们亲戚们相认，相交，而且在这种轻松的心情下，这样美丽的氛围里，实在是很有必要。我想这就是为什么西方有这么一个风俗的原因吧。

那天晚宴的高潮应该是夕闻的外婆和妈妈向这对新人赠送她们自制的特殊礼物，以及Rick送给他们的在Wikander 家族流传了数代至少有100年以上历史的音乐节拍器。

Rick 送给他们音乐节拍器是一个有价值的古董。Wikander 家族对音乐情有独钟，虽然家族里只出了两个专业音乐家，但对音乐的爱好代代相传。



外婆的礼物是一副裱褙好的中国字书法。90岁的外婆早早地就开始准备了。下面是外婆关于这副字从构思到成品的这一过程的表述。

关于书赠惜惜和伊莎贝尔结婚：

“我书法几乎没从过师，在一位好朋友樊君的鼓励下开始了练书法，往往在亲人们大婚之前总想写点什么表达心意。以前写的都是条幅，这次惜惜结婚很想有点新意。

婚姻的核心是爱，于是想到写一个爱字。保持爱情则是婚姻美满的关键，要把我对他们爱的祝福和愿望表达出来，不能单是个爱字。从形式上讲，可以在下面加上四个词语。我想了很多词语组合，在微信上征求儿女们的意见，最后确定下尊重，信任，珍惜，和宽容四个词。我认为夫妻间互相尊重互相信任是基础，还要懂得珍惜生活中拥有的一切，能宽容对待一些不可避免的错失，才会有长远的和谐幸福。这四个词不见得是最恰当最能概括的，但我是同时考虑了书写上的美观因素而确定的。”

“我首先练写主体爱字。我写大字不多，生性不是豪放一类，画画也每不敢大笔挥洒。我曾写过寿、康、福等字，这时竟觉得爱字是最难写的字之一。在喜宴上有人问我练了多久，回想一下仅这一字，大概不下五十次。写出来总有不如意处，到后来请教一位懂行者孙君，她倒是说好。

于是进行练习八个辅字。首先我琢磨用何书体，行楷隶都试写。与孙君商讨结果决定采用楷书。我并画了数种大小的格子，请她为我决定整体布局。小字练写比较顺畅，但尊字始终感到特别单薄，与其他字不配，十分烦恼，遂遍查各种字帖及前人作品，发现有加长酋字最后一笔的写法，如获至宝，终于定案。开始写整体作品。

练写过程中考虑全是中文不符合这种跨文化婚姻，乃寻思如何将Love 一词作为背景，这是没有先例的。先试用毛笔在背面写，不行；又试用记号笔写于另纸衬托，也不行。却忽然发现用溼法影印效果不错，但掌握其深浅明显程度亦颇不易。

总之，要创出一完整作品颇非易事。当然要归咎于我书法不老道，有时还难免浮躁之病。甚至在裱画的最后一关出现纰漏。实在愧不能说拿出的礼品十分完美。

另外，那个精美镜框是晓聆老早为我物色的，她知道我有此心意，而且镜框正适合我用。”

我送给他们的礼物是一幅工笔画的并蒂莲。刚学画画不久，基本功还有待大大提高。可是这并没有妨碍我认真地为他们准备。听说红色不是西方结婚的流行色，就画了朵淡雅的白色并蒂莲。不在于它是什么颜色，而在于它所表达的意义。它的意义是这样用中文和英文表述的，并留在画框的里面了。

并蒂莲 (Twin Lotus Blossom) ---My Painting to you

This is a twin lotus blossom. In science, it is called spontaneous mutation - a very rare event happens by chance; It cannot be anticipated nor be manufactured.

I chose to paint this as my gift to you, because I feel it expresses my appreciation for the rare event that you, a Chinese and a Western, met by chance, fell in love spontaneously, now become ONE. It is just as the twin lotus blossom -- two flowers on one stalk of your life; it also delivers my best wishes for your shared life in the years to come. Always keep in mind that this is rare and precious, and to keep it bloom, it needs you continuous nurturing.

Yishu (Mom)
July 3, 2016



并蒂莲是花中的珍品，亦有花中君子之称。它是十分希罕的植物中的双胞胎。科学家研究证实，它不可遗传，也无法复制，完全是天然形成。所以自古以来，用并蒂莲誉“天作之合”的婚姻。

并蒂莲，茎杆一枝，花开两朵，不是同根同生同心同福吗？

送你们一支并蒂莲是妈妈对你们由相识，相爱至结合最衷心的赞美和祝福。

第二天，伊莎贝尔特地告诉我她和夕闻非常珍惜外婆的那幅书法。是他们收到的最珍贵的礼物之一。伊莎贝尔父亲在给我的电子邮件里表示了他对于这些字画和音乐节拍器礼物的感谢和评价：I was deeply impressed at the beauty of the three gifts from you and your family--your mother's calligraphy, your painting, and Rick's gift of his father's metronome. I was very much struck in your painting not only by the symbolism of the twin blossoms on a single stem, but the

quality of the line drawing, the wonderful texture of the blossoms, and the quiet and harmonious colors.



后记：

激励着我想把这个婚礼记录下来的是这个婚礼中浓厚的人文色彩和它的不拘一格。那由来自各地的音乐朋友们临时组成的现场乐队，短短时间里居然可以演奏出那么专业和优美的音乐；那用古今中外的诗歌，甚至妈妈为新人特别创作的诗歌，来表达婚礼祝贺的雅致，那新郎用钢琴演奏来向新娘倾诉情爱的浪漫，那些为每一个场景精心挑选的贴切而美丽优雅的古典乐曲，那些虽然并非精品却包含着爱和辛苦的字画礼物，那象征着音乐传承的古董音乐节拍器，无不传递着浓浓的文化气息。正因为如此，这个婚礼的进程显得非传统。无法预料下一个节目是什么。谁会想到婚礼竟是以四个父母读诗歌来开头？谁会预料到伊莎贝尔父亲的讲话里会引用法庭对于法庭案件的裁决来定义人类婚姻的本质？而且这个法庭案件还是同性恋案件！还有用于表演的大型钢琴让新郎独奏衷曲献给新娘！大型现场乐队在婚礼上那么多演奏古典音乐！我真的发自内心地欣赏它，忍不住要赞美它。如果说婚礼过程中，有不周到，有遗漏，我们可以原谅，因为它是那么的不拘一格。感谢伊莎贝尔和她父母的智慧，辛苦和付出。

特地从中国来参加婚礼的亲人和朋友们，因为不熟悉这里的风俗，地理和语言，不一定会注意到这些细节，或者注意到了，却不容易理解它们的含义，尤其是那些英文的诗歌和讲话。他们一定感觉遗憾。为感激他们的投入和付出，我觉得我作为夕闻的妈妈，应该为他们的遗憾作出小小的弥补。也以此表达我对她们的感谢。她们是：夕闻的姑姑莫小玲，干妈妈郭久莲，表姐周黛南，还有小侄儿李幕哲。这是我记录这个婚礼的第二个动因。

第三个原因是想为这对新人们留下记录。希望他们在今后的岁月里，有机会重温他们当初的浪漫和誓言，激励他们在婚姻碰到暴风雨时不触礁沉船，依然能够努力前行。

感谢我的妈妈，90岁高龄还全身心地投入夕闻的婚礼，创作了极为宝贵的字画。让他们可以保留一辈子，相互勉励一辈子。

感谢我的妹妹晓聆，弟弟小平，弟妹蓉桂，还有侄儿侄女们，还有夕闻的叔叔莫春生，婶婶聂海燕，大家都放下家里的牵挂，丢下手头做不完的工作，换飞机，等飞机，来庆祝这对新人的婚礼。亲情至深可鉴。

谢谢伊莎贝尔和夕闻的伴娘和伴男们从他们工作的各地请假飞来尽他们并无报酬的职责。为友谊，为真诚的祝福。

真诚感谢那些因为各种原因没法来参加婚礼，却用礼物表达了他们的衷心祝贺的朋友们，亲人们。

昨天晚上看见伊莎贝尔在Facebook上向大家致谢，列出了所有来参加婚礼人的名单。我顺便陈列在下面，一并感谢。

Isabel's note on Facebook

I wish there was some way I could fully express my thanks and gratitude to all the people who came to Rhode Island last week. You all truly made it the most beautiful and memorable day I could possibly imagine. It's an honor to call you my friends and family. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Zach Mo, Harris Fairbanks, Ruth Fairbanks, Hanna Lei, Sue Jiang, Richard Wikander, Luosheng Mo, Chunsheng Mo, Haiyan Nie, Xiao Ling Mo, Dainan Zhou, Muze Li, Jiulian Guo, Ling Thumin, William Jiang, Leslie Yi, Hong Jiang, Harvey Maksvytis, Ann Keuper, Tom Maksvytis, Andrew Fairbanks, June Lee, Nora Lee Fairbanks, Emma Lee Fairbanks, Andrew Holden Mazur (officiant extraordinaire), Jackie Ludwig Selby, Hannah Min, Monica Davis, Hilary Castle Green, Laura Kay, Maddy Maksvytis, Shu Nicorn, Nate Messina, Andy Liu,

Pham Manh Viet, Joshua Mark Samuels, Mike DeGro (pro accordionist), Brian Hatton, Giao Pho, Geoff Green, Brent Selby(best cellist!), Christopher Thorp, Cordy Jiang, Cosmo Jiang, Diana Wang, Rose Messina, Laurie T. Grueninger, Grant Grueninger, Bill Curtain, Mary Curtain, Bob Tilton, Rita Tilton, Claire Andrews, Mark Sabia, Chandana Sikund, Scott Norman, Danya Bader-Natal, Andrew Kuech, Alder Swanson, David Natvig, David Jackson, Jamie Marie Wagner, Addie Peck, AJ Greisen, Alex Rowney, Trina Certeza, Nick Drozdowicz, Tina Huang, Shaun Fitzgibbons, Martin Avegno , Elizabeth Avegno , Elizabeth McClanahan Algimantas Zilinskas, Ruth Zilinskas, John Urbsas, Adele Urbsas, Elena Paretti, Marcus Weaver.

真诚祝愿这对新人恪守他们的婚誓，直至永远。

江宜庶 (Sue Jiang)
July 9 - 15, 2016
336 Bridge Street
Northampton, MA

附件一：

A Blessing for Wedding

By Jane Hirshfield (1953 --)

Today when persimmons ripen
Today when fox-kits come out of their den into snow
Today when the spotted egg releases its wren song
Today when the maple sets down its red leaves
Today when windows keep their promise to open
Today when fire keeps its promise to warm
Today when someone you love has died
 or someone you never met has died
Today when someone you love has been born
 or someone you will not meet has been born
Today when rain leaps to the waiting of roots in their dryness
Today when starlight bends to the roofs of the hungry and tired
Today when someone sits long inside his last sorrow
Today when someone steps into the heat of her first embrace
Today, let this light bless you
With these friends let it bless you
With snow-scent and lavender bless you
Let the vow of this day keep itself wildly and wholly
Spoken and silent, surprise you inside your ears
Sleeping and waking, unfold itself inside your eyes
Let its fierceness and tenderness hold you
Let its vastness be undisguised in all your days

Jane Hirshfield is the author of eight collections of poetry, including *The Beauty: Poems* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), which was nominated for the National Book Award. She currently serves as a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.

附件二：

如果你乐意

如果你乐意
我定然像一条小溪
时时以清纯以歌声
萦绕你
滋润你

如果你乐意
我定然尽我的所有
为你酿造千年的酒
以清冽以香醇
消你无忧
解你无愁

如果你乐意
我定然在我的园中
为你栽满鲜花
以美丽以芳菲
任你采
任你摘

如果你乐意
我把我的小屋
我的天空
以至我的梦想
全都精心装点
任你翻飞
任你缠绵

If You Wish

**If You wish
I would like to be a stream
The crystal clearness, the singing
Shall enchant you
Shall refresh you**

**If you wish
I will give all I have
Making the best wine over history
The piercing aroma, the clarifying fragrance
Shall lift your worry
Shall melt your cares**

**If you wish
I will in my garden
Strew precious flowers
The beauty, the scent
So you can pick them freely
You can enjoy them endlessly**

**If you wish
I will in my little house
Under my sky
In my dreams
Elaborately decorate
So you can fly freely
You can relax without worry.**

English Translation by Yishu Jiang

Love & Companionship

By Xi Murong

You are that speeding arrow
I am the wind soothing your feathers

You are that wounded eagle
I am the healing moonlight

You are that magnificent pine
I am the embracing vine

Wish, wish, --- and I wish
for- e- ver, for-e-ver, till the end of time

You always will be my love, and I'm
Your lifelong caring companion

English Translation by Hanna Lei, William Jiang
& Laurie Grueninger

July 4, 2016

席慕容《伴侣》

你是那疾驰的箭
我就是你翎旁的风声
你是那负伤的鹰
我就是抚慰你的月光
你是那昂然的松
我就是缠绵的藤萝
愿
天
长
地
久
你永是我的伴侣
我是你生生世世 温柔的妻

附件三：

Villanelle: Celestial Navigation

For Isabel and Zach

GPS doesn't work here. You look at each other
here on this bridge aiming for pure sky,
for heavens right up there. Rising together,

you wonder how steel transforms heavier into lighter.
There was land, here more like immateriality.
Scary when GPS doesn't work. You look at each other.

The sky is ardently blue, singing with euphoria.
Is this how birds and angels feel as they fly
through heavens right here rising together?

The bridge floats, shining higher over its river.
Earth subtracted, you soar into purer sky
and GPS still doesn't work. You look at each other--

you are good at celestial navigation you discover.
The bridge carries you still with certainty
through heavens here and rising together

you look back at that other world. Draw closer
in this land of the soul. Inevitably
GPS doesn't work here either. You look at each other,
at heavens here, now inextinguishable together.

Ruth Maksvytis Fairbanks

附件四：

Welcoming Speech

By Harris Fairbanks

Welcome, everyone, and thank you so much for joining with us to celebrate the marriage of Isabel and Zach. Some of you have come from great distances--from Maryland, Missouri, Wisconsin, California, Arizona, Louisiana, Seattle, Toronto, and China--to be with us today. And to those who have come all the way from China, we say “*Shie shie! Huan ying!*” Many thanks to Zach’s mother, Sue, for facilitating the travel and housing logistics for so many guests. Ruth and I met many of Zach’s family members in Maine last summer, and we have now had the pleasure and honor of meeting his father, Mo, for the first time. We have been deeply moved by this family’s warmth, generosity, and cultural sharing over the past two days.

I was talking with Zach five or six weeks ago, and he asked me how I was feeling about the wedding. I told him I was looking forward to it, but what was more to the point, how was *he* feeling? He said, “For me the wedding is not a big step. I’ve known for some time that Isabel was the person I wanted to spend my life with.” I know a few of you young guys are engaged and thinking of marriage in the near future. If you want to know what to say that will make the father of the bride happy, say that.

But there’s a difference between a wedding and a marriage. A wedding is a ceremony, an event, and it’s over; marriage is a way of life, and it all lies ahead. I teach a course on the Rhetoric of Political Discourse, and it was in that context that I came across the decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that concluded the famous Goodridge case, which was brought against the state thirteen years ago by a couple who was legally prohibited from marrying because they were both women. The court decided in favor of the couple and had this to say about marriage:

Civil marriage is at once a deeply personal commitment to another human being and a highly public celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family. . . . Because it fulfils yearnings for security, safe haven, and connection that express our common humanity, civil marriage is an esteemed institution, and the decision whether and whom to marry is among life's momentous acts of self-definition.

Ruth and I have watched Isabel and Zach grow together for almost a decade now. They have grown together in both senses: Like two trees they have grown side by side, in parallel, achieving their full stature as individuals in terms of confidence, grace, character, vocation, and a place in their community. But they have grown together in the other sense as well, like trees that over time intertwine their branches until together they form one beautiful canopy.

They already possess so much that contributes toward those ideals of mutuality, companionship, and intimacy special to marriage. To me, moments of shared laughter are among the most intimate, and Isabel has told Ruth and me that one thing she loves in Zach is that he fills her days with laughter. But perhaps even more important, they know how to comfort and console each other when that is called for. I know Zach’s kindness at first hand, and Isabel’s optimism and equanimity give her a tremendous power to soothe, reassure, and inspire. They share so much else as well--workplaces, colleagues, and friends, so many of whom are here in this room this evening. And of course there is also their shared vocation, and those who have heard them play know that they make beautiful music together.

So today we have come to a moment that the years have been pointing toward. Please raise your glasses and join in a toast to the married couple with a wish for a lifetime of joy, music, and tenderness toward each other: To Zach and Isabel.

July 7, 2016

附件五：

My Heart With You - Lyrics

Waited a hundred years to see your face,
And I would wait a hundred more
If only to be near you,
To have you and to hear you.
Isn't that what time is for?

I sailed a thousand ships in search of you.
Traveled to distant land.
I dove for sunken gold.
I took what I could hold,
But you're still the greatest treasure I've held in my hands.

My love, the reason I survive,
Trust we'll be together soon.
Should our fire turn to dark,
Take my heart with you.

A tattered photograph my pocket holds.
I keep you secretly.
I studied every line.
You're etched upon my mind
For not a million soldiers could take you from me.

My love, the reason I survive
Trust we'll be together soon
Should our fire turn to dark,
Take my heart with you.
You

My love, the reason I survive,
Trust we'll be together soon.
Should our fire turn to dark,
Take my heart with you.
Take my heart with you.
Take my heart with you.

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附件六：

Wedding Speech

Zach Mo 7/7/2016

So this is certainly quite out of the ordinary... who pulls out a phone during speeches at a wedding? Also quite out the ordinary, is that this is prepared at all. Most of the time when I have to speak, like at a concert or when I'm teaching, i usually just play it by ear. But, I decided to write this down because I am not no jazz musician.

Well, I have one main word for this event: supplies. And i don't mean cleaning supplies, gardening supplies, or railroad laying supplies... I mean supplies for life, and specifically, the beauty and wisdom that Isabel has supplied in my life.

You see, as a classical musician, I am always practicing and re practicing pieces, hundreds, thousands of times before a performance. And as expected, over the course of the process, the emotional effect dulls after so much repetition and analysis. Just like what would happen if you listened to a song too many times, or ate a food too many times, or did anything too much. People naturally lose their sensitivity and search for newer engaging experiences.

The amazing thing about Isabel is that after all these nine years, her face and her beautiful smile still give me the sense of amazed wonder i felt when we first met. No matter how many times we've held hands or embraced, every time is just as good as the last. We've experienced so much fun and elation, but also so much turmoil and angst. Just like every couple. But with Isabel, every disagreement is just another rung in the ladder. she is just like any great piece of art: the repetitions only deepen my sense of wonder because real beauty comes from uncovering the many layers and meanings that can only be discovered over time. The most compelling beauties are seen through a cumulation of the many complexities and experiences that come together to form the whole. This is perhaps one of the most important things Isabel has ever taught me, and she did it without even knowing.

As you go through life, look for the things that supply you with the tools to live life, to keep digging for clearer truths and searching for deeper beauty. For me, I found in Isabel this endless well of inspiration, to live, to learn, and to love. It's no supplies that I chose her to marry

附件七：

Zach/ Isabel Wedding Speech

Yishu Jiang 7/7/2016

-- it took Isabel and Zach lots of consideration to decide on the wedding date. I am sure among them, they never realized that that the date they picked is coincidental with the traditional Chinese annual culture event named 七夕节, 乞巧节

-- this cultural event is closely associated with one of the 4 most popular Chinese folk love stories, 牛郎织女鹊桥相会。

-- 牛郎and 织女. 织女is an angel from heaven. she happened to sneak out to earth with other Angels to shower, swim and being playful in a lake, 牛郎 is a country cowherd, who was passing by the lake with his cows and heard the playful and heavenly voices of those angels? He then picked up one set of clothing of a girl, and hide himself. While other Angels were going back, this girl could not because she could not find her clothing. Married, had twin baby, a boy and a girl. The authority in the haven discovered the missing angel, dispatched a representative to earth to look for her. Long separation geographically and temporally. However, this does not decrease the love among them, nothing could separate the couple. Finally, the heaven authority granted them meet once a year on the 7th day in July. On that day, all the birds in the world shall fly to the Milky Way and form a bridge over it. 牛郎shall bring the twins to the east side of the Milky Way, 织女shall appear on the west side, they each walk half way on the bridge to reunion.

--- the uniqueness of the story is that unlike most of the love stories that describe the lovers before marriage, this folk story tells the story of a married couple,

this folk story illustrates

--- the difficulties and hardship inevitably occur between a married couple.

--- the enduring royalty, faithfulness, and persistence are the key elements to a long lasting marriage, no matter how hard the reality is.

Zach and Isabel

-- an eastern boy from mid-west and a western girl from east coast, just like the couple in the story. earth boy and an angel from heaven

--coincidentally picked up this unique date honoring married couples in Chinese culture as their wedding date.

-- I feel this coincidence is not by chance, but by fate. Just as the couples in the story they will be together to deal with the hardships and difficulties they certainly shall encounter, trust, support each other. Love each other for as long as life lasts.

附件九：

Wedding Speech

Nathan Messina July 7, 2016

I'm not really sure why I quite band back in 1996 but I'm so glad I did. I will never forget sitting with our friend Brandon Rodriguez as we looked on while a young, seemingly mild-mannered boy from Saint Louis sat down at Miss Fitzsimmons's piano and in an instant made it so beautifully clear that he did not belong in that class. Perhaps this is part of the reason I apologized to our band director Mr. Kyle one week later and asked to be returned to my family of trumpets along side our other friend, Hong Xu.

Despite leaving Miss Fitzsimmons's class so quickly, Zach and I became fast friends due to a mutual love for classical music and gangster rap built on a solid foundation of pure silliness that has lasted 2 decades.

Ever the procrastinator, it took almost 20 years of friendship with Zach to realize that life is more about process and less about the goals themselves. We often focus so intently on a vision of our future, we neglect the day to day actions and habits that would get us there. Not Zach. He has never been one for labels like "musician", he simply plans. Or like "boyfriend" or "husband", he simply shows up. He has come to embody for me one of the best ways to live one's life; by trusting in the process and keeping a light heart.

I could not be happier to join all of you today in celebrating the beautiful and silly life these two wonderful souls have already been building for years and I cannot wait to see what else the future holds! To Isabel and Zach!

Much love homey. What a fantastic weekend. It was an honor to join you in this.

Isabel and Zach, 7/7/16

Hi everybody! For those of you who don't know me, I'm Hilary - one of the two maids of honor and a long-time admirer and friend of our beautiful bride, Isabel. I could not be more excited to stand here before you today in honoring Isabel and Zach. What an outstanding wedding - here's to the people in this room who helped create this special day.

My friendship with Isabel was one of the earliest friendships I had and through many chapters of both of our lives, it has flourished. Having shared so many chapters together, it was tricky to think of where to begin this speech. There is just so much to say. As a writing exercise, I decided to simply write an email to Isabel thinking that it would morph naturally into a speech - I chose to keep it in the a letter format. Here it goes.

Dear Isabel,

Little did I know that those long, fluorescent-lit and music-filled Saturdays at Hartt would lead to the two of us taking part in our live's most precious moments - moments like today. When we sat down in that dingy, tiny classroom for our first string quartet rehearsal, I doubt either of us suspected that we'd be giving maid of honor toasts for one another. The universe had a lot in store for us. Our lives have been connected and intertwined in ways that amaze me and fill me with tremendous gratitude.

Those sweet summer days at Tanglewood and as roommates at Bowdoin Chamber Music Festival - they were just last summer, right? I'm not convinced that there are many people in this world that would simultaneously binge-watch Sex and The City AND listen to the second movement of Beethoven's Emperor Concerto on repeat. The smell of honey and calendula lotion from "Kiss My Face" has latched itself onto memories I have of you and I don't think I will ever not think of you when I hear the opening phrase of Schumann's Cello Concerto. That is your cello concerto. Your love of music infused *my* love of music in ways unimaginable. How lucky I am to have a friend to share the deepest joys of our souls together and also the love of farm-fresh vegetables and trashy tv.

You delight in the seemingly small things that the world has to offer - things that others might not take note of - to name a few: puppies AND older dogs (sometimes the funnier looking, the cuter), simple iced-coffee from a gas station Dunkin Donuts, a trip to the outlet mall just to get out of the city, visiting farm animals and a sweet, somewhat random berry stand on the side of the road - these things hold such beauty and meaning to you - it is contagious. Through your eyes, life is fascinating and who knows what could be around the corner? A one-eyed dog? The world's best chocolate croissant? Or being married to the love of your life?

Zach - how wonderful it must be to share your life with someone who delights in the wonders of the world in this way. Thank you for loving and making Isabel the happiest I've ever seen - you light and warm her life. Your love of music, determination, humor, quick wit, cooking skills and

gentle love together create a person that melds beautifully with Isabel. You two share a deep love for music in addition to a love for each other that knows no end. May this continue for years to come. I'd like to end with a quote from Thoreau that I thought appropriate for this day:

"When I hear music, I fear no danger. I am invulnerable. I see no foe. I am related to the earliest times, and to the latest ... Strive to live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment."

This day will fly by - it probably already has. Take a moment to breath and look around the room - there is so much love around you. Soak up every minute of this incredible day and every day that follows.

I love you both dearly.

Xoxo,
Hilary

Please join me in raising our glasses to the bride and groom - Isabel and Zach!