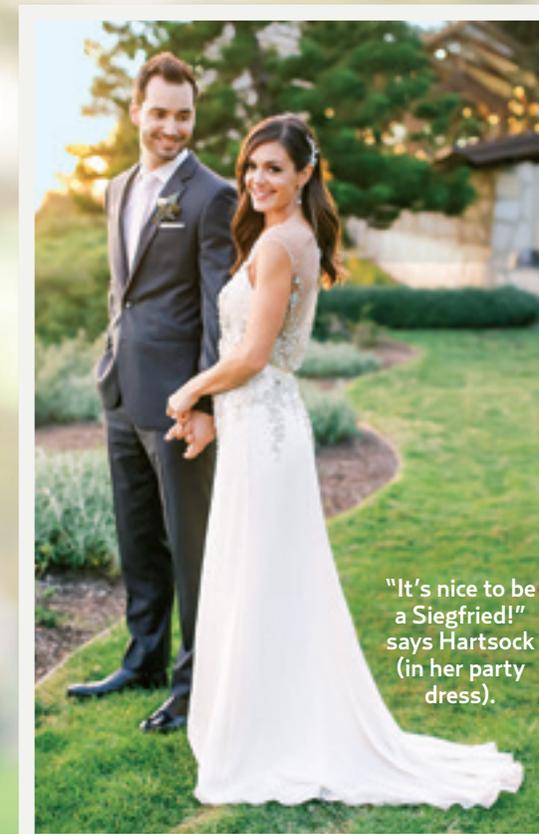


Desiree's **Vintage**  
**Wedding**

Bachelorette **Hartsock** gets her happily ever after with poet **Chris Siegfried** at a historic library

BY SARAH GROSSBART & CARA SPRUNK

"He's such a romantic," Hartsock tells *Us* of her husband (Jan. 18 in Rancho Palos Verde, CA).



"It's nice to be a Siegfried!" says Hartsock (in her party dress).

**C**hris Siegfried has written scores of poems for fiancée Desiree Hartsock. But the former Bachelorette saved her own touching prose for their wedding day. Hours before the couple were due to meet at a chapel in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, January 18, the bridal designer had a gift delivered to her groom: the leather journal he had given her during one of their final on-camera dates. Inside were pages of love notes she had jotted throughout their 20-month romance. From that day forward, says Hartsock, the book would be "for both of us to write to each other."

They started their new chapter to the sounds of a pianist playing Chantal Kreviazuk's "Feels Like Home." Explains Hartsock: "Chris is my home." With dad Tony on her arm, the Colorado native, 28, glided down the aisle of the glass-enclosed Wayfarers Chapel toward 29-year-old Siegfried. "I was nervous, but when I saw him, I felt peaceful," says

Hartsock, who donned an ivory lace gown she codigned with Maggie Sottero. After a 15-minute Christian ceremony, the Seattle pair were pronounced Mr. and Mrs. to a crowd of 130, including *Bachelor* couple Jason and Molly Mesnick and Hartsock's former suitor Brooks Forester, who famously broke her heart on the show before she accepted Siegfried's proposal. "It wasn't weird having

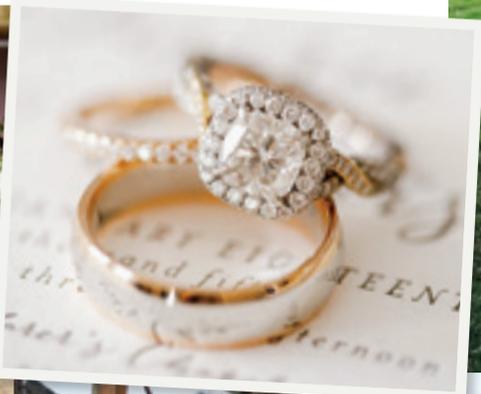
Brooks there," insists Hartsock. "He and Chris are best friends." Not that much could have dampened her mood. "It's cliché to say," she tells *Us*, "but it was a dream come true."

**No Roses, Please**

The celebration had been a favorite topic since May 2013, when mortgage banker Siegfried slipped the then-L.A.-based bridal boutique employee



Hartsock's bridesmaids (including fellow *Bachelor* alum Daniella McBride, second from right) wore chiffon Donna Morgan dresses in berry bouquet (\$230, donna-morgan.com).



In the glass chapel (right), Hartsock and Siegfried — surrounded by attendants and flower girls (below) — exchanged rose-gold bands from Neil Lane (top right). For the reception, planner Leila Lewis brought in wood tables from Found Vintage Rentals, eggshell linens, calligraphed place cards and favor bags filled with the couple's favorite candy, saltwater taffy (top left). Invitations were ordered from Minted.com (bottom right).



a 4-carat Neil Lane diamond ring. "We probably started talking about what we'd want before the finale even aired," shares Hartsock, who competed for *Bachelor* Sean Lowe's affections before doling out her own roses. Siegfried says the two agreed "to keep things classy and vintage."

After a year of batting around ideas — a Hawaiian locale was considered; outdoor vows were vetoed because "January can be really cold!" says Hartsock — the duo settled on the oceanside Wayfarers Chapel. "It's just so remarkable — you have the glass surrounding it, so you can see the trees," says Hartsock. "We both fell in love with it." Hartsock handed over the event decor — and her theme board brimming with printouts from sites *Lover.ly* and *The Knot* — to Seattle-based designer Steven Moore of *Sinclair & Moore*. He sought out rustic pieces to fulfill her vintage vision (an 11-foot old-fashioned bar was rented for the reception). And armed with one directive — "No red roses," says Hartsock; "they're not my favorite" — *Sinclair* helped dream up earthy bouquets of ranunculus, peonies and

**Dress Designs**

Eight years as a bridal stylist and designer did not prepare Hartsock for her own look. "I've seen so many dresses," she says. "It was difficult to narrow down what I wanted." **Wardrobe change** For the vows, she created a fit and flare of ivory lace over blush tulle (above). A silver-beaded chiffon sheath (far right) was better suited for dancing. Says Hartsock, "The first look was dramatic. The second, vintage." She added Badgley Mischka strappy heels and jewelry from her line *Desiree for KV Bijou*.



Both dresses will be available at [maggiesottero.com](http://maggiesottero.com) this winter.

vines. Greenery for the chapel would “bring Seattle to California,” adds Hartsock, who left L.A. to live with her fiancé. “Both are home for me.”

When it came to her attire, Hartsock needed no help. The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising graduate created two gowns for herself (one for the ceremony, one for the reception) as part of her Desiree Hartsock with Maggie Sottero bridal line (*see box, previous page*). “I wanted them to be unique,” remarks Hartsock. “It came down to imagining what I would look like when I saw Chris.” The ex-minor league baseball pitcher was kept in

the dark, she jokes: “He knew better than to peek at the sketches!”

### The Dramatic Finale

She kept her vows under wraps too, until 3:30 P.M. January 18, when they exchanged words they’d each spent months painstakingly writing. Hartsock threw out a baseball pun: “I said, ‘Life is sure to pitch us some curveballs, maybe even some knuckleballs, but together I know we’ll make it through and run the bases hand-in-hand.’” The *Diamonds and Hearts* author, meanwhile, voiced the words he had first written three days after his proposal in Antigua. “I’d put down

what I was thinking at the time, so I pieced that together,” he explains. Despite giving Hartsock a preview — “I had been sending her text messages through the last few weeks,” he says — Hartsock still teared up. “You know me: I’m Sensitive Sally,” she says. “Chris just blows me away.”

Following the poignant ceremony, guests were shuttled to the nearby Redondo Beach Historic Library. Inside, long wood tables were dotted with blush-and-cream-colored floral arrangements and stacks of classic books, a nod to their love of poetry. At 6 P.M., the newlyweds entered for their first dance to Matt White’s

## Bachelor Nation Came to Party



**BROOKS FORESTER**  
Hartsock swears it wasn’t awkward having the man she once dated at her wedding: “It was two years ago!”

**ALI FEDOTOWSKY**  
The former Bachelorette brought love Kevin Manno. Alum Renee Oteri sent regrets — she had a baby January 15!

**JASON AND MOLLY MESNICK**  
“You could feel the love Chris has for her,” Molly (wed in 2010) tells *Us*. “Next up, babies!”

**MICHAEL GAROFOLA**  
Siegfried says he speaks “fairly regularly” with the attorney who once competed for Hartsock’s heart.

**ZAK WADDELL**  
Hartsock sent the engineer packing after hometown visits, but admits he has lots of charm: “My friends loved him!”



“Love and Affection.” To Hartsock’s shock, the performance was live — just as it was during their first one-on-one date in Munich, Germany. “I contacted Matt on Twitter,” says Siegfried. “I’m patting myself on the back for that one.” So is Hartsock. “It was special,” she says. “He nailed it!”

DJ Tasos Hernandez, a fellow series alum, also earned raves from the couple. Until the final bars of Mark Ronson’s “Uptown Funk” played at 10 P.M., the duo were fixtures on the dance floor. “I broke it down!” boasts Hartsock. “I did the Dougie.” Once the homespun desserts (think: chocolate chunk cookies and mini milkshakes) were consumed, the pair and 60 of their guests kept the party going at a nearby bar. “We were out until, like, 1,” says Hartsock. “Whiskey bottles were being passed.”

Soon it could be cigars. Hartsock admits she’s eager to start a family. “I want three or four kids,” she says. “Chris is like, ‘Just wait till you have one.’” Whatever comes next, she’s ready for it. “In a relationship, you’re always learning about someone, trying to figure out how they love, how they feel, how they think,” says Hartsock. “I think it’s the same with marriage. You continue getting stronger and growing with each other. I’m excited for that.”

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The duo’s first dance (bottom left) was a surprise performance of “Love and Affection” by Matt White. “Des was stunned,” White (above) says. Later, DJ Tasos Hernandez (top left) played hits such as “Cyclone,” and the newlyweds carved a salted caramel and Oreo cake from Sweet and Saucy (top).