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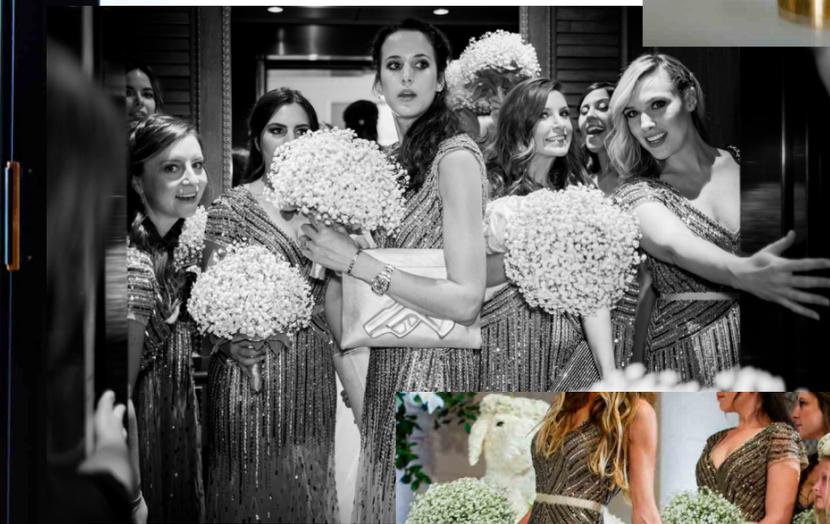
*A floral Great Dane,
an enchanted forest setting, one
giant herbaceous tiered cake...
Presenting the gloriously OTT
wedding of New York singer TORA
FISHER to property entrepreneur
LOUIS BUCKWORTH.
HFM stepped inside their
Florida ceremony*

WORDS: Dean Piper
PHOTOGRAPHS: Gruber Photography

CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW: Ceremony rehearsals; pre-wedding fun with the bridesmaids; the bride; a pearl necklace once belonging to Louis' mother given to Tora for the big day



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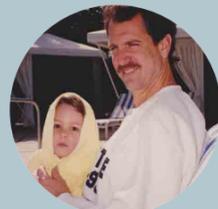
FROM TOP: Louis' ring by Marisa Perry; Tora's by Anne Sportun; the bridesmaids and flower girls; the programme; the Mediterranean Ballroom ready for the ceremony; Mr & Mrs Buckworth



Last November, the A-list wedding on everyone's lips was that of Modern Family actress Sofia Vergara and her True Blood actor beau Joe Manganiello. The venue? The dreamy Breakers Palm Beach in Florida. The resort was also the setting for the more under-the-radar but no less stylish society wedding in January of New York singer-songwriter Tora Fisher and property entrepreneur Louis Buckworth. The glamorous couple opted to forego the traditional altar to recite their vows under a canopy of ethereal trees in an enchanted forest-themed setting (as you do!).

The 220 guests flew in from the UK, Australia, New York and Bermuda for a weekend of celebrations at the legendary Italian Renaissance-style hotel, a place particularly close to the bride's heart. It's where 26-year-old Tora spent many happy childhood holidays with her family before the tragic death of her real estate magnate father Anthony Fisher in a plane crash 13 years ago. Tora, then aged 13, was the sole survivor of the Massachusetts crash, which also claimed the lives of her stepmother Anne and four others. "It's a place that holds the happiest memories of my father,

TORA'S STORY



TOP TO BOTTOM: A young Tora with her late father, Anthony; the singer finds great strength in music; with pal Poppy Delevingne in 2014 LEFT: Breakers Palm Beach resort

so I hoped we could have it there," Tora tells HFM of the wedding venue. "Louis had never been before but he loved the idea that it would connect old memories with new ones."

The talented songstress first caught the world's attention when her inspirational TEDTalk, entitled Resilience Through Music, went viral in 2014. She began writing songs in the aftermath of the accident as a way of channelling her grief. "Everything changed overnight," she has said previously. "All of a sudden I had a lifetime of lyrics and ideas and things to write about. It just felt very authentic."

With an album already under her belt, Tora is about to hit the British consciousness when she embarks on her first UK press and radio tour next month, following the release of her critically acclaimed debut single I Am My Only Love by her band, Baby Raptors.

"I've never performed in the UK before – I was last there for Louis' brother Piers' wedding," she tells us. "It's very exciting to be able to appeal to a different set of listeners. I love the fact there's this expanded taste in Britain and I can't wait to see if Baby Raptors' sound will be embraced."

During the ceremony, conducted by the couple's friend Jeremy Lawson, who had been ordained for the occasion, Tora and Louis, 32, lit candles in honour of both her late father and his mother, Bridget, who died when he was 11 years old. But despite the absence of their loved ones, the ceremony was anything but heavy hearted. "From the moment Louis and I made eye contact at the altar, I felt a joy and love that was beyond anything I've ever known," Tora reveals. "That deep love will be with me throughout my life."

Movingly, her father's own words were read out during the dinner toasts: "My father had actually written what he would say for the 'father of the bride' speech at our weddings when my sister and I were still just little girls," says Tora, whose older sister Miasha was one of her 11 bridesmaids. "He had gone to a friend's

daughter's wedding and was so moved he went home and immediately wrote a toast for both of us."

Those toasts were unexpectedly found after the crash and given for safe-keeping to his close friend Marty Edelman, who has been a father figure to Tora. Marty not only walked her down the aisle but also delivered Anthony's words to a teary-eyed room. Another notable figure at the wedding was Charles Delevingne, the father of Louis' first wife Chloe, whose sisters are models Cara and Poppy. The two men remained close after the couple's split in 2009 with Louis describing Charles as his "second" father – after his own brilliant dad, Australian Nicholas.

The evening before the wedding, spirits were high. Guests were invited to enjoy a 'reggae and rum' celebration – a nod to Louis' friends from Bermuda and their shared love of Bob Marley beats and Ron Zacapa rum. Naturally, the men's look for the night was Bermuda shorts teamed with jackets and knee socks, much to the amusement of the female contingent.



FROM ABOVE: Tastefully done down to the last detail; the many ushers and bridesmaids with the happy couple; the resort looked beautiful at night too; dancing to Steve Winwood; cocktails all round



'From the moment Louis and I made eye contact at the altar, I felt a joy and love that was beyond anything I've ever known'



The day of the wedding began with a nod to Hollywood film *The Big Lebowski*. Louis, his best man (and brother) Piers, and 13 ushers headed off to a local bowling alley where they were presented with personalised bowling shirts. While it was a casual start to the day for the boys, the girls were whisked into the penthouse suite at 8am for hair and make-up sessions and pampering.

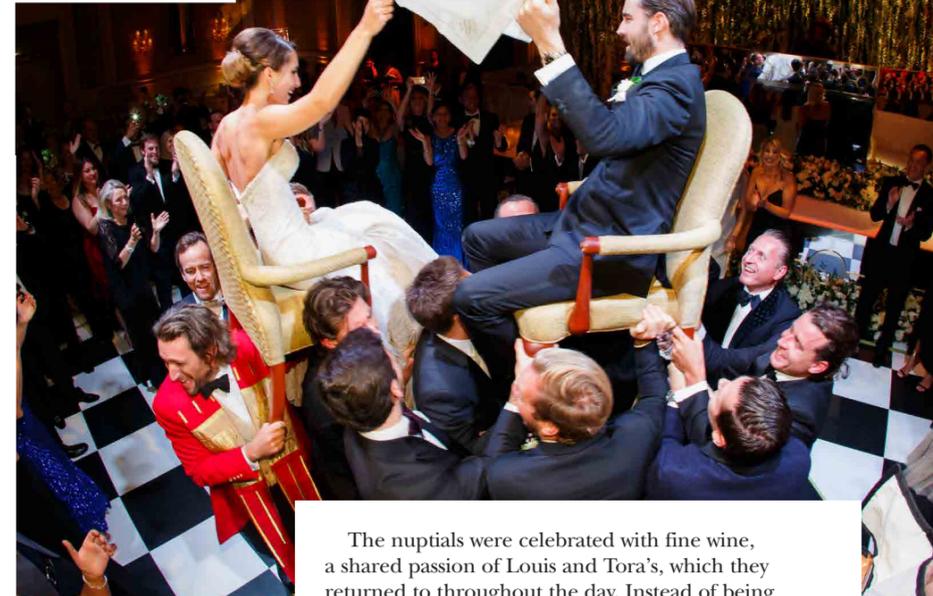
As well as incorporating the playful Buckworth family crest of a lion, the wedding decor included thousands of luxe white roses and intricate lamb's ear and boxwood greenery by celebrity florist Preston Bailey. The real show-stopper, however, was a quirky life-size floral replica of Tora's beloved dog, Titan, who had recently passed away. The Great Dane tribute stood beneath the flowering altar trees, completing the enchanted forest scene in the Mediterranean Ballroom.

"Our wedding planner, Kathy Romero surprised us with the tribute," Tora explains. "She is the kind of planner that would think of something like that. She not only truly cared, but she was always pulling off the impossible to make the day much more special."

So with Titan looking on, Tora made her entrance on Marty's arm, her embroidered organza mermaid gown embodying all the drama needed for such a spectacular backdrop. Designed by Beverly Hills couturier Mark Zunino, it captured the fantasy element she had envisaged and had been an easy



FROM ABOVE: It's disco party time!; the couple celebrate with a traditional Jewish Hora dance, a nod to Tora's father's faith; the floral tribute to Tora's dog, Titan



The nuptials were celebrated with fine wine, a shared passion of Louis and Tora's, which they returned to throughout the day. Instead of being numbered, each table was named after the couple's favourite wines. The pair also raised a toast to the wedding congregation with Tora's father's signature wine, Château Lafite. And the wedding gift list was comprised of the pair's best-loved bottles.

For dinner, guests were served from a menu of sea salt grilled filet mignon, miso glazed black cod and black truffle Parmesan risotto. Afterwards, the couple cut into a show-stopping 1.3 metre cake designed by Sylvia Weinstock and decorated with greenery to match the woodland theme. The party continued into the early hours in the Mediterranean Ballroom – by now transformed into a disco masquerade – and featured Tora's brother-in-law 'Jamo' on the decks.

With the wedding festivities over, and before the new Mr and Mrs Buckworth returned to their native New York, where Louis is currently leading sales for one of Manhattan's most highly anticipated developments, 520 Park Avenue, and Tora pursues her music career, there was a little matter of the honeymoon to enjoy.

So what did the happy couple choose to do? Forsaking tradition yet again, they went on a "family moon", of course, with 19 of their closest friends and family to the sun-kissed Caribbean island of St Martin, a relaxing end to an unforgettable nuptials. **HFM**

choice for the bride-to-be. "I walked into Kleinfeld Bridal shop [in New York] with my sister and I pretty much floated over to it," she says. "I saw this strapless gown with antique blush lace on an ivory bodice. The train seemed to go on forever. It was so romantic yet classic. I could immediately picture myself as a bride."

The bridesmaids, led by maid of honour Miasha, who tied the knot to Australian-born restaurateur and nightclub impresario James 'Jamo' Willis in Long Island last year, all wore sequined Adrianna Papell gowns. The mother of the bride, Paula Heil Fisher, looked elegant in an L'impasse Couture cocktail dress, very much in keeping with the wedding's loose James Bond-themed dress code. Louis' niece Amelia Wright, three, Tora's cousin's daughter Rose Fisher Deutsch, 18 months, and Jemima and Isabella Bailleau, eight and 11 respectively, made the cutest flower girls in hand-crafted white tutus by Melissa Jane Couture.

Following the ceremony, the newlyweds took to the dancefloor as Steve Winwood's 80s classic Higher Love streamed out from the speakers. "We are both huge lovers of 80s music so that was the perfect start to the dinner – there wasn't a first dance, as such, we just wanted everyone up dancing," Tora reveals.



FROM ABOVE: Cutting the Sylvia-Weinstock-designed cake; pretty chocolate desserts; each guest received a welcome goodie bag from the bride and groom

