

Weddings...

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Laura Gerber & Benjamin Wollmuth

Courtney Trapp Photography

Kiara Sogn & Chase Ringheimer



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Laura Gerber & Benjamin Wollmuth

July 20, 2024

The Wollmuth couple currently lives in Sioux Falls, where Ben works as an associate at the Sioux Falls Downtown Library, and Laura works as a bridal consultant for “Ellie Stone Bride,” and as a character performer for “Simply Ever After Entertainment.” Laura is originally from Canton, South Dakota, while Ben grew up in Sibley, Iowa. Laura’s parents are Terry and Julie Gerber, and her grandparents are Harold and Elverna Knuth. Ben’s parents are Stephaine and Kevin Wollmuth, and his grandparents are Pat and Ron Huisenga, and Janice Wollmuth.

Ben and Laura met at the “University of Sioux Falls” in the fall of 2019, during their freshman year. They were in a lot of common things together such as classes, choir, theater, and even clubs. They also shared similar friends and ended up sharing the same friend group. They began dating their sophomore year of college, “we would watch a lot of movies together, whether it was at a movie theater or at our dorms. It’s how we started dating. Our friend group would have a movie night after our club activities, and we really got to know one another better. We would also try out new restaurants when we had the chance” Laura recalled. The couple enjoys the same genre of movies, as well as singing, creating music, reading, and writing, as they are both creatively oriented.

Laura believes that their love was always present, “I knew that the moment we started dating, he was the person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.” And after dating for two years, they were engaged.

“It was on December 20th, 2022, and one of the coldest days of the year. Dangerously cold. We had plans to go out for supper but since it was so cold out, we changed plans, and I was invited to his dorm to have supper. I walked into his dorm, and he had battery candles all over the dorm and a fireplace on the TV. He was really doing his best to make the place look romantic even if he lived in an apartment-style dorm with 3 other men. There was a lot of effort put in and I couldn’t have been happier. He

had a table set up and had me sit down. He mentioned he had an early Christmas gift and asked me to close my eyes. When I was asked to open them, there was a ring box, and there he was, asking to marry me. I was expecting a proposal, but not so soon. I was absolutely ecstatic and moved. I somehow held it together and didn’t cry, which is a first for me. I learned that Ben had talked to my dad first about proposing, which was something I had requested. It meant a lot to me that Ben had fulfilled that request, and I think it meant a lot to my father as well. When Ben proposed, I knew he went the extra mile to make the most out of a situation he couldn’t control; that being the weather. He had a completely different plan of where he wanted to propose, but I prefer where he did it, as strange as it sounds.” -Laura Wollmuth

Ben and Laura had picked out her engagement band at Riddles. It is a .75 karat marquise engagement ring with a simple gold band. The wedding band that was added was a gold band with leaf designs that wrapped around the original ring. Ben’s ring is a gold milgrain detailed ring, with the inside detailing in a swirl pattern.

The couple was married at Laura’s hometown church in Canton, “Redeemer Free Lutheran Church.” It was important to Laura that her pastor, Tom Gilman officiated, as he had been Laura’s pastor for many years. The reception was at “Gate City Events” in Canton. They tried to support local businesses in Canton for the wedding, such as “The Garden Shed Floral” as their florist, her hairstylist Amber Beatty from “Define Hair Design,” and cake made by Jen Skiles from “Batter Up Bakery.” Other vendors used were “Courtney Trapp Photography,” “Central Catering” out of Hawarden, Iowa, “Apex Lighting and Sound” for the DJ, invitations from “Shutterfly,” wedding dress and tuxes from “Bridal Gallery,” bridesmaid dresses from “Azazie” and alterations done at “Olga Alteration and Tailoring” from Sioux Falls, SD.

The wedding dress was a simple ivory wedding dress, trumpet style



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with satin fabric. It was structured with double straps and rouching on the top. Laura purchased a cathedral veil with a scalloped edge and floral lace. At the reception, she had a floral hairpiece and wore teardrop diamond earrings and a matching necklace. Her hair was styled half-up and curled.

The suits were navy, with brown shoes, and mauve ties. The bridesmaids were free to pick their unique style of dress if the color was mauve.

Laura had picked out the colors based on favorite colors. Ben likes blue, so she decided to choose navy, mauve, and maroon as the main colors to branch out from. Their theme was romantic rustic. Her mom, Julie, made all the decorations from scratch; she did every flower, lantern, and book placement.

Laura knew she wanted to have a tear-drop-shaped bouquet; and wanted it to have pencil lilies in her bouquet, since her mom had them in her bouquet, and her grandma had pencil lilies in hers as well. She tried to stick with the color theme of mauve, maroon, and other

shades of pinks and blues. She had blue thistles as a pop color, pink roses, and deep maroon roses. They were real flowers, while the bridesmaids had silk flowers. The bridesmaid's bouquets were vibrant colors of pinks, maroons, blues, and some purples. The boutonnieres and corsages were a light pink rose.

Her maid of honor was Lydia Gerber, her older sister. The best man was Brenden Johnson, who has been Ben's friend since middle school. The bridesmaids were Tracy Eich; childhood friend from elementary school, Moriah Plastow, Paris Whalen, and Madeline Schuelke whom she had met in college. The groomsmen were Riley Robinson; Ben's college roommate from freshman year, all the way to graduation, Jackson Andersen and Will Grisham, Ben's college friends, and Conner Beltman, who Ben has known since elementary school. The ushers were Matt Sterud and Josh Werre; who are shared college friends. Their flower girl was Laura's second cousin, McKinley McDonald, and ring bearer was Ben's nephew, Arthur Holbrook.

Laura had her cousin, Emily Perry, as a personal attendant and special music singer. Laura's aunt Lisa Knuth-Marotz helped with a lot of roles, taking care of any other details that needed to be covered.

Laura had a box of wedding keepsakes, such as her mom's good luck penny and pouch from her own wedding, and her grandma's handkerchief, which she had made years ago for Laura.

They had their rehearsal dinner at "Gate City Events" the evening before the wedding.

The day was calm, and energy was high because of her bridesmaids. They spent the morning getting ready with hair and makeup. By noon, the photographer had arrived and had an amazing schedule for photos, which made the day go stress-free. Laura did a first reveal with her bridesmaids, then her father, and then with Ben.

"I absolutely cherished having a first look with my father. Seeing his reaction, getting a good cry out, and hearing a few words of wisdom from him was absolutely something I needed. The



first look with Ben was a surprisingly calm moment between the two of us. I remember not being too nervous. Both of us managed not to cry. Ben had told me I looked beautiful."

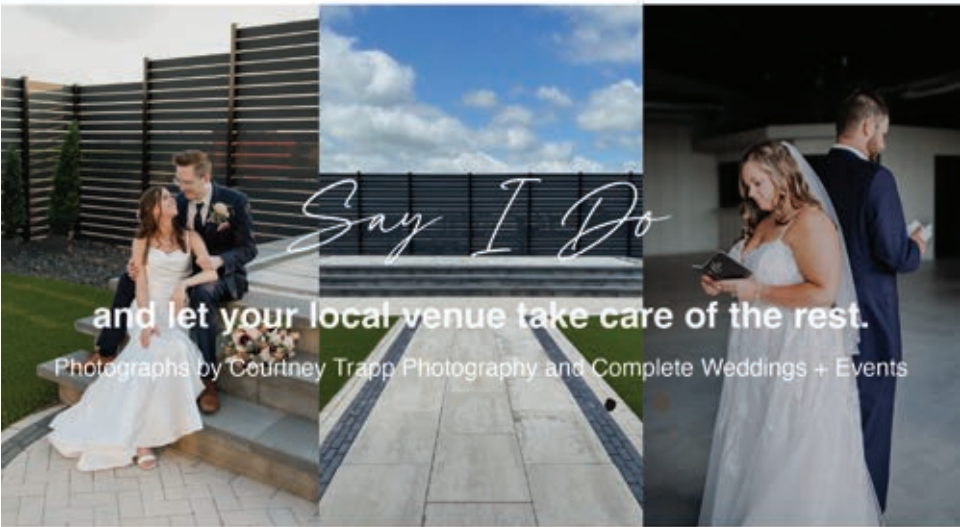
In between the photos there was some decompression time, and they then drove to the church around 3:30, thirty minutes



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before guests arrived. The ceremony began at 4 and ended around 4:30. Her Father walked me down the aisle. During the ceremony, they had “All I Need to Hear” by the 1975 on the piano when the wedding party walked in. For the bridal entrance, “A Tender Feeling” by Yuki Kajiura played. They had a candle lighting ceremony where Laura’s cousin Emily Perry sang “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” The couple had around 180 guests attend their wedding. Dinner was served at 5, where they ate broasted chicken, pork loin, mashed potatoes, fruit fluff, coleslaw, corn, and a dinner roll-all served buffet style.



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The dinner was followed by special dances at 5:45, and then the shoe game with the DJ. Their first dance as a couple was to the song “All I Need to Hear” from the 1975. The song was special to the couple, as they had previously sung it as a duet for their college’s cabaret. The Father/Bride song was “Cinderella” by Steven Curtis Chapman and the Mother/Groom song was “Landslide” by Fleetwood Mac. A unique thing they did, was have a bridal party dance that was “choreographed” back in their college days. The song was “I Don’t Feel Like Dancin’” by Scissor Sisters. This was an effort to encourage dancers to get on the dance floor. The rest of the night was spent socializing with friends and family that they had not seen in a while. The cake was a white vintage heart-shaped cake with shell edges and small mauve colored flowers. On the top, in mauve, was “The Wollmuths.” The flavor of the cake was lemon with buttercream frosting. “I don’t think I would change a thing about my day, other than having a few bridesmaids take lots of photos for me on my phone since I wouldn’t have it with me. It is absolutely a joyous, yet stressful experience. For me, it was important to



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remember that the wedding wasn’t about the decor, the attire, or the venue, but about celebrating love with the people that matter most. Cherish and enjoy every moment that you can because it flies by fast. Everything went according to plan and there were no huge surprises. I think that was the biggest surprise for me.”

The morning after the wedding, the couple opened gifts with family at Laura’s parents’ home. They registered gifts with Amazon, Target, and The Knot. The following day, they started their week-long honeymoon in the Black Hills. While there they visited cities such as Deadwood, Sturgis, and Rapid City.



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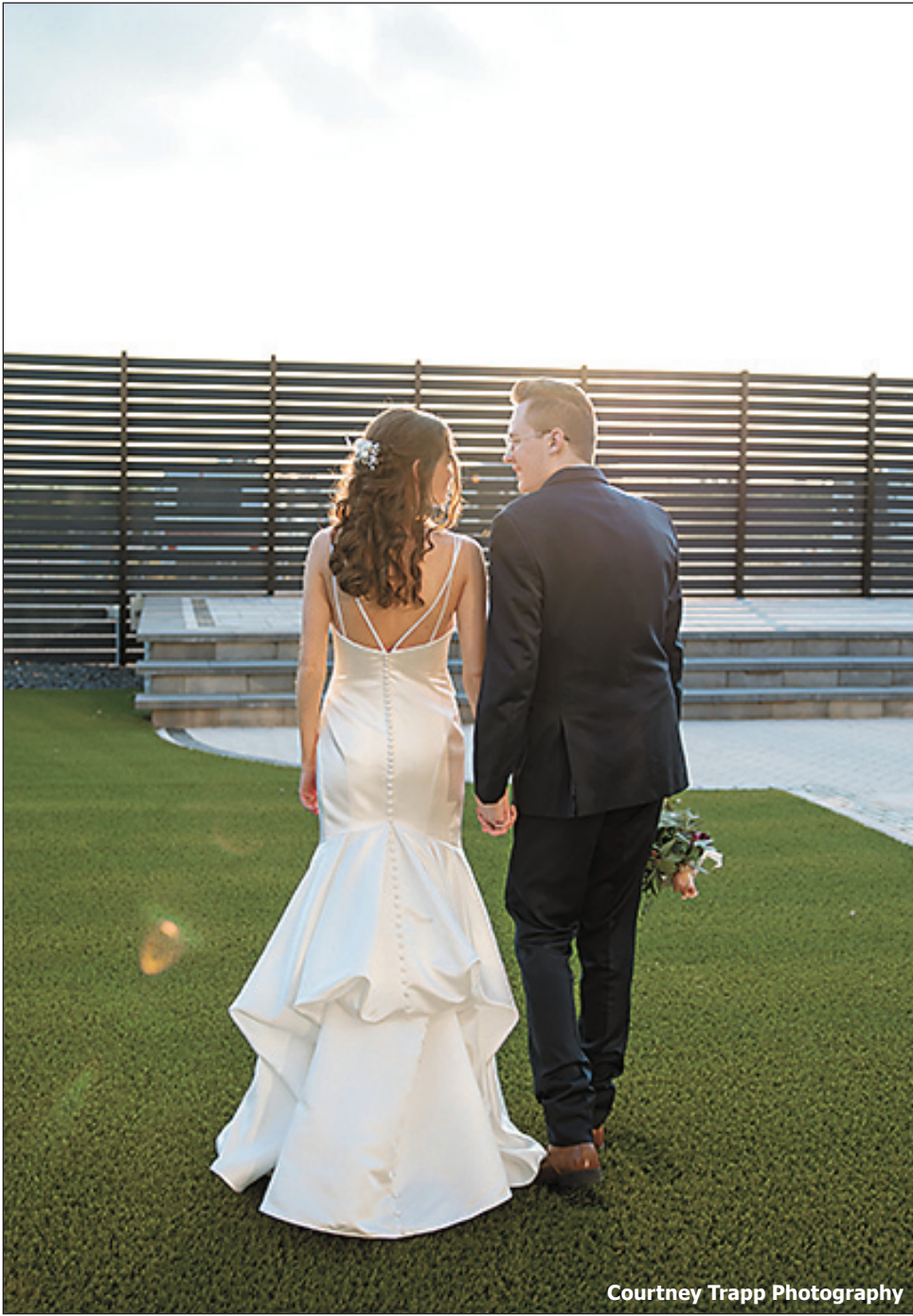
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Kiara Ann Sogn & Chase Allen Ringheimer

September 7, 2024

Kiara grew up in Canton, SD, daughter of Paul and Kim Sogn. Chase grew up in Volga, son of Tony and Angie Ringheimer, and grandson of Joannie Ringheimer and Kathy Brenden.

The couple met in 2020 through mutual friends while attending college in Sioux Falls, SD. The two dated for two-and-a-half years before getting engaged. While dating, they enjoyed spending time with friends and family, summer days at the lake, Twins games in the Twin Cities, and concerts.

Kiara would say both she and Chase felt the same way early on, as they both knew that they were in it for the long haul and could easily picture a future with each

other. Being at the same stage in life played a big part in it as well.

During Sogn Family pictures at the Japanese Gardens in Sioux Falls, Chase proposed to Kiara. He had been talking with Paul and Kim to work out a plan. Towards the end of the pictures, they were taking pictures of the couple alone when the photographer had them turn away from her. Chase stepped back, and when Kiara turned around, Chase was on one knee. His family had also been hiding around the corner and popped out at that time. It was incredibly special to the couple to have all their family there to witness the engagement.



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The couple had looked at rings the month before, and Kiara was sure Chase had bought the ring that day, as he is known to have lost or forgotten about things. The day of the proposal he was unusually quiet and trying to hide nerves, so Kiara knew something was up. However, she didn't know for sure it was happening until they were turned around for pictures.

The couple purchased the rings from Helzberg's Diamonds in the Empire Mall. Kiara's ring is a round diamond with a gold band, and diamonds along the band. Her wedding band is like the engagement band, but the diamonds are

spaced farther apart, giving it a dainty appearance.

The engagement lasted for fourteen months, filled with lots of wedding ceremony planning. The couple hosted their rehearsal dinner at the Gate City rental house in Canton. The wedding party started getting ready and decorating around 8 am the morning of the wedding. The boys spent the morning at the rental house enjoying the swimming pool and watching football.

Kiara's dress was from Bridal Gallery. The dress was an A-line with thin beaded straps, the bodice had lots of lace and beads that led down to the middle



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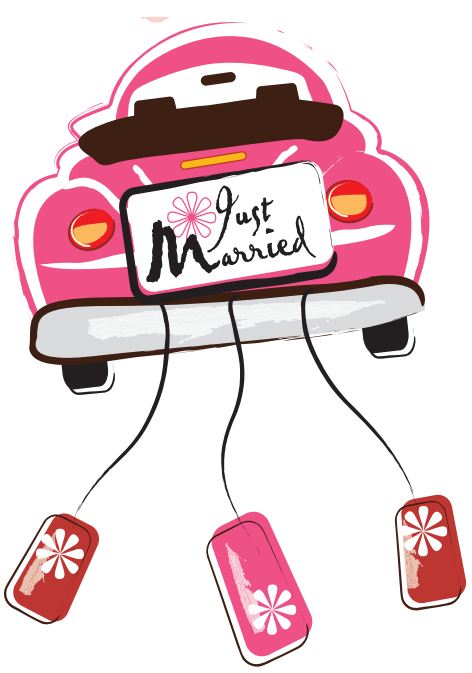
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of the skirt. The skirt was covered in glitter. Her accessories were a pearl bracelet, matching pearl necklace, and small pearl dangle earrings. Kiara’s hair was done by Amber at Define Hair in Canton. Kiara had her hair half up with a twist wrapped along the back and beachy waves.

The bridesmaid dresses were from Azazie. They had two colors, and they alternated based on the order they were walking in at the ceremony. Kiara gave the girls their color and had them pick out their own style of dress. Her only criteria were for them to all be floor-length, chiffon, and each a different style. The tuxedos were from TRENDZ in Brookings. The boys wore navy suits with a tie matching the girl’s dress with which they were walking. The dads’ ties matched the mom’s dress, which were also shades of blue. The ring bearers wore a white shirt, with navy pants and suspenders. Their bow ties matched their mom’s dress who were bridesmaids.

The wedding colors were desert rose, vintage mauve, and navy. Her talented mom, owner of “The Garden Shed Floral” did all the flowers for the wedding. Kiara gave her a few flowers ideas that she didn’t like, and Kim took care of the rest. The bridal bouquet had shades of pink, purple and red with lots of greens. The girls had a smaller bouquet, but a similar version to Kiara’s. The boys had pocket boutonnieres, so her mom didn’t have to worry about pinning on flowers and was able to spend time with Kiara while getting ready for the day.

Kiara’s getting ready robe was made from her mom’s wedding dress. Chase’s mom, Angie, sewed it together for her. She also had pearl necklaces that were given to her from her Grandma Sogn on her bouquet, and a charm with a picture of her dog. Chase gave Kiara a card and

polaroid of him and their dog that was delivered to her while she was getting ready. Her parents gave her a bracelet and added the charm of her dog to her bouquet.

The afternoon of the wedding day was spent taking pictures with the couple, family, and wedding party in the Prayer Garden.

The matron of honor was Chase’s sister Jordyn. Kiara and Jordyn have the same taste and style, so having Jordyn to help Kiara make decisions and all the other matron of honor duties, was helpful to her. Chase’s best man was his childhood best friend, Trevor.

The bridesmaids consisted of Kiara’s sisters Jenna and Kiley, her two best friends from high school Alissa and Kalyn, her closest cousin Karlie, a recent friend who she had become close with and is also Jordyn’s sister-in-law Baylea, and her college best friend Amanda.

Groomsmen were Chase’s high school friends: Daymein, Jake, Brennan, Trevor, Andrew, Brayden and brother-in-law, Layne.

Kiara’s personal attendant was her best friend from work, Payton. Ushers were Kiara’s brother and brothers-in-law: Jim, Alex, and Eric. Flower girls were Kiara’s nieces Avonelle and Vayda. The ring bearers were the couple’s nephews Everett, Oliver, and Merrick.

The ceremony was in the Moe Parish Prayer Garden and was special to Kiara for two reasons. It is located at the church she grew up in, and her mom was the designer of the garden. Her parents have put in a lot of hard work to make it as beautiful as it is, and as Kiara always wanted an outdoor wedding, but also wanted it to include their church, so when her parents helped put in the garden, it seemed too perfect. Pastor Chris Schroder, the Moe Parish Pastor, officiated the wedding.



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Kiara’s dad walked her down the aisle to “Incredible” by James TW. The seating of the grandparents and parent’s song was “Forever and Ever, Amen” by Brent Morgan. The wedding party came down the aisle to “You are the Reason” by Callum Scott. Kiara’s dad sang “The Lord’s Prayer” during the Unity portion of the ceremony. The recessional was “This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)” by Natalie Cole.

“I wouldn’t change a thing; everything was perfect and more than I could have ever dreamed of. The most memorable part would be seeing each other for the first time, that day. Chase is a big softie,

so he reacted just as I thought he would, with tears and a big smile. It was the most perfect first look. It was also a very special moment between just the two of us and allowed us to take a moment to breathe and take in the moments of the day.”- Kiara.

The wedding party took a party bus to Canton for wedding party pictures downtown and made a stop at the Wheel for drinks before going to Gate City for the reception. The reception table decorations were full of flowers. They had three different centerpiece options. The centerpieces were either black or gold open rectangles, black or



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gold open hexagons, all with flowers inside, or a variation of floating candles with a flower in the bottom of the vase. They also had a white flower wall with matching-colored flowers throughout and placed a couch in front with a neon sign, for guests to use as a photo booth. The head table had lots of candles and greens.

Around 250 people attended the wedding. The reception started around six, where they served chicken alfredo, lasagna, salad, and breadsticks. The wedding cake was red velvet, with cream cheese frosting, and pearls all around. Jen Skiles made the delicious cake.

Their first dance as a married couple was “Spin You Around” by Morgan Wallen, which is a favorite singer of the couple’s. The father/daughter dance was “Yours” by Post Malone.

The mother/son dance was “Simple Man” – Sung by Angie, which was a special surprise to Chase from his mom. Kiara’s dad also sang at the ceremony during the unity.

The couple was registered with Amazon and Target. They did not do the traditional gift opening with everyone after, as they opened gifts at home as a couple in a more intimate setting. They enjoyed time with just the two of them to take in all the events that happened over the wedding.

The couple enjoyed their honeymoon at an all-inclusive, adult only resort called “Breathless” in Punta Cana. They were there Monday to the next Monday, with a nine-hour travel time.

Kiara’s advice for soon-to-be brides would be, “Don’t sweat the small stuff. The tiny details that don’t work out the way you wanted will only matter to you. No one else will know the difference. Take a moment to breathe, and to enjoy your day because it goes by so fast.

The Ringheimer’s currently live in Brookings but are moving to Sioux Falls in March. Kiara is a nurse, and Chase is a land surveyor.



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