

"WE JUST WANT A ROCK 'N' ROLL PARTY"



We talked to **Dave Matthews Band** bassist Stefan Lessard and his fiancée about their upcoming wedding. Here's what they're planning and how they'll pull it off while Stefan's on tour. by Kara Corridan

STEFAN LESSARD, 31, AND 27-YEAR-OLD Jaclyn Burton have been together since 2003. They met when she was managing the San Francisco studio where Dave Matthews Band was recording their 2002 CD, *Busted Stuff*. The couple have an 18-month-old daughter, Hazel; Stefan also has a 7-year-old son, Diggy, from a previous marriage. They'll marry on October 15 at Pelican Hill Golf Club in Newport Beach, CA.

MB: You live in Virginia. Tell us why you chose to get married in California.

JB: We picked it because Laguna Beach is really special to us. I surf, he skimboards, we're always staying at the Montage in Laguna Beach. We'll stay there instead of in L.A. while we're on tour and we're even planning to stay there for part of our honeymoon. Also, we needed something really private. We just sent the save-the-dates: We tell

guests that we'll have hikes and kayaking; we list our favorite restaurants. Basically we said, "Come fall in love with the town that we love."

MB: Will your kids be in the wedding?

JB: We'll definitely include them, though we haven't totally figured all that out yet. Diggy is our ring bearer and will be wearing a suit that matches his dad's. An amazing designer friend

of ours will make a dress for Hazel. The daughter of some other friends will be the flower girl.

MB: Let's hear about your dress.

JB: My dress rules. [To Stefan: You have to go, honey. You can't hear this.] Okay, he's going outside. I'm so traditional. Plus I want that first impression. It's by Monique Lhuillier and it's called "The Temptress." It's strapless, mermaid-cut, satin, off-white. It's got a sweetheart neckline with beading on the front and a corset where laces tie up top instead of at the bottom. Then there's a three-foot train with beading on the back. I'd call it a little bit rock 'n' roll and a little bit sexy.

MB: What are your 'maids wearing?

JB: Deep berry satin dresses by Laundry. They're floor-length; they hang nicely. Nicely priced, too. The key was that I really wanted the girls to wear them again. And one of them says she's determined to wear hers before the wedding!

MB: What's on your menu?

JB: Since we're on tour and we eat in restaurants so much, I definitely want to stay away from anything that feels like catered food. We want it to be simple. Just good ingredients. So we're having a Baja station (tons of tacos), an island station (steak-fries with lots of pineapple, coconut and rice) and a taste-of-Italy station. Before the ceremony, we're going to have limeade and lemonade served in Mason jars.

MB: And the decor?

JB: We're thinking a lounge with low couches and tea lights, and bringing trees in. I really want square plates and lots of room on the table. It'll be clean and simple—basically, the opposite of the Trumps' wedding.

MB: Is there a theme?

JB: We're trying to steer clear of themes. We just want our wedding to be a good rock 'n' roll party.



MB: Tell us about the music.

JB: Stefan and I decided to splurge in the music department: We're starting with a pop quartet with soul vocals for the arrival and ceremony. For the cocktail hour, we're having a Brazilian band. Then for the reception, we're having a 17-piece big band, a soul vocal quartet and a solo female vocalist.

MB: Would the band ever play?

JB: Oh God, no—there's absolutely no talk of the band playing. It's work to them. That's their office. I can't even imagine them playing impromptu.

MB: Has Dave Matthews Band ever played at any weddings?

SL: We've played proms, a deb ball, and might've even played a bar mitzvah back in the day. Before joining the band, I played receptions myself—I was in a few jazz bands.

MB: Stefan, which part of the wedding are you most excited about?

SL: I'm excited about seeing how the bridesmaids and groomsmen are going to look, the style of it all. We play summer shows, so it's T-shirts and jeans. I love dressing up and I don't have enough excuses to do it. Definitely no tuxedos—just stylish suits.

MB: Have you been talking about the wedding with the guys in the band?

SL: Yeah. They all know Jaclyn and love her. Everyone's just real happy for us, real excited. It's going to be a fun wedding. Dave [Matthews] and Carter [Beauford] both got married pretty privately, so Boyd Tinsley's wedding back in 1992 was the last time we as a whole group were at a wedding together.

MB: How many people from the crew are coming?

SL: We're just inviting the people we're really friends with. There's a core group who've been around almost as long as the band has. The guest list is 180 and the more I started thinking about it, I realized that at a certain point we've got to say, "We're good."

MB: You'll be on tour right up until the wedding. How involved will you be in the planning while you're on the road?

SL: The great thing about touring is that I actually have more downtime to think—I'm in hotels, on the bus. The road's going to be great for me as far as visualizing what I need to visualize.

JB: I love his input. He's so easygoing, and we have the exact same taste on everything. I always run everything by him—that's how we work in life.

MB: What's your first-dance song?

JB: We're actually having two of them: one from me to him, and vice versa. And we're keeping them a surprise from each other.

MB: As a side note, Julia Roberts is in your new "Dreamgirl" video and you play her husband. What was that like?

SL: It was a lot of fun and amazing that she wanted to do it. It was also the first time I'd ever acted. I had a line with Julia at the end. I was a basket case. I think I was red in the face. I can perform on stage, but when it comes to speaking in front of a crowd, I got nervous. But I said to myself, just pretend you're at the wedding and you're talking to Jaclyn. This is what it's going to be like!