

A FOUR SEASON Gets Married

The marriage of any show business personality is always news. But when one of the Four Seasons gets married, that's something special.

Such was the case on June 18 when Joe Long, bass player for the popular Seasons, tied the nuptial knot with 21-year-old Laura Pomponio at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Cedar Grove, N.J. It was the most spectacular wedding the small town had ever had. More than 250 guests were invited and every detail, from decorations to attire, had been meticulously planned.

Laura, Joe's attractive, 5-foot-2, black-haired fiancée, has been a fan of the Philips recording act for years. But the first time she met Joe was at a concert in New Jersey a year ago. "I was with my cousin and we wanted to see if we could possibly meet the boys," she recalls. "We finally got backstage and started talking with Joe. I told him that I'd go to his next appearance but that he probably wouldn't remember me. He said he would."

So, Laura faithfully attended the Seasons' next performance at the nightclub in Lodi, N.J. And, as fortune had it, Joe did remember her. "They came off stage and Joe happened to see me and sat down," she says. "We started talking and the next thing I knew he asked me for a date."

Surprised, Laura readily accepted and the two went to a movie the next night. That initial date led to another three nights later and, before Laura knew what was happening, she and Joe were dating steadily.

Last November the talk turned to marriage. One night the handsome Season and Laura were chatting in the latter's home when the singer suddenly admitted, "When I find the right girl, I'd like to settle down." Then Laura picked up the cue and added, "And if I find the right guy I would, too." That settled it. They decided on a June marriage. The engagement was formally announced to friends and family on Valentine's Day.

How does it feel to be the wife of a top star in the popular music field? Laura says she's excited and doesn't feel his status as a musician will hurt their marriage. "Since we've been dating, he's been going away a lot," she says. "I'm used to it by now. If I can I'd like to travel with him sometimes. But I understand and I love what he's doing."

And, how do the respective parents feel about the marriage?

"Oh, we're very excited about it," explains Mrs. Mary Pomponio. "It's quite thrilling. It seemed destined from the start. It was like this marriage was almost made in heaven. Joe is one of the most wonderful persons I have ever met. I think they'll



have a wonderful life together. I can foresee much happiness for them because they're really ideally suited for each other."

Joe's mother, whose name also is Mary, says she feels it's "wonderful" that her son is getting married. "He's been home a long time and I'd been hoping that he'd find a nice girl. I'm very happy for him."

Since the marriage plans were announced, Laura's mother has been busy with the massive preparations. Among the more than 250 guests were, naturally, the other Seasons, Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio and Tommy DeVito. Also invited were their manager, Fred Weintraub, and officials of Philips Records. Most of the remaining guests are personal friends of the bride and groom and members of their large families.

Joe's best man was his 22-year-old brother, Anthony (who has the same name as Laura's only brother), while Laura's matron of honor was a cousin, Corine Brown.

Mrs. Pomponio says the town's youngsters knew of the engagement but "never made it uncomfortable for Joe" while he was at Laura's home. "Once in a while the kids would ring the bell and say 'hello' to Joe," the mother says. "But the kids here have never really been unpleasant."

Laura has lived in Cedar Grove with her mother, father, Larry, and brother almost all her life while Joe has resided in Elizabeth, N.J., about 20 miles away, with his mother and father, Joseph. After their marriage they settled in an apartment in Montclair, N.J.

Congratulations! ●