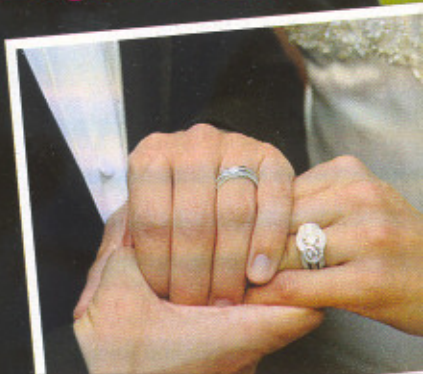


# Howie ma

OK! has your exclusive invitation to the wedding of Backstreet Boy **Howie Dorough** and his longtime love, **Leigh Boniello**



### *With this ring...*

The bride, in a strapless Rivini gown, embraces her groom, who wears a Dsquared tuxedo. "Everyone described it as a supermodel wedding dress," Leigh tells OK!. Above: The couple show off their platinum wedding bands made by Plantation Jewelers in Winter Garden, Fla. "We basically came up with the design," says Leigh.



# Howie gets married

**T**here are many emotional moments at a wedding, but for Backstreet Boy **Howie Dorough**, the highlight was seeing his bride, **Leigh Boniello**, walk down the aisle. "I had to hold myself back from crying," Howie tells *OK!*. "She was so beautiful." The couple, who have been dating since 2000 and got engaged last New Year's Eve, were married at Saint James Cathedral in the groom's hometown of Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 8, with Father Miguel Gonzalez presiding over the traditional Catholic ceremony.

After Howie, 34, and Leigh, 33, said "I do," 200 black and orange monarch butterflies were released outside the cathedral, in memory of Howie's sister Caroline Dorough-Cochran, who died of lupus. Following the ceremony, the 180 guests were bused to La Viance, a private estate, for the lavish reception. The bride and groom, however, chose to make their grand entrance by helicopter. "Everyone was shocked," says Leigh.

Of course, the night wouldn't have been complete without a special toast from Backstreet Boys **Nick Carter**, **Brian Littrell**, **AJ McLean** and **Kevin Richardson** (who decided to sit out on the group's latest album, *Unbreakable*). "They're like my brothers," Howie tells *OK!*. "The fact that they recognized Leigh and how long we've been together was so sweet." Here, the happy couple shares their beautiful wedding day with *OK!*.

— **Jacqueline Neiss & Jon Warech**

Photographed exclusively  
by Andre Csillag/Relay Photos

Produced by Lillian Pons

Hair and grooming by Lauren Pudwill

Makeup by Cat Lane & Nikki Stainer

Accommodations by Grand Bohemian Hotel,  
grandbohemianhotel.com

Special thanks to wedding planner  
Heather Snively from Weddings Unique,  
weddingsunique.com



## Party time!

Above: The five-hour reception was held at La Viance, a 32,000-square-foot private estate. Left: Howie and Leigh surprised their guests by arriving there via helicopter. Below left: Backstreet Boy Nick Carter toasts the happy couple.



## An affair to remember

Above: The couple's four-tiered confection was from Mark Lotti's Classic Cheesecakes & Cakes of Atlanta. Left: Backstreet Boys AJ McLean, Brian Littrell, Howie, Kevin Richardson and Nick Carter pose for the camera. Other celeb guests included Deborah Gibson and 'Nsyncer Chris Kirkpatrick.

