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## 'It all began after I sang on stage'

**Jennifer Krol**, 24, a market researcher, and **Alex Calvey**, 24, a doctor, will be married on April 13, 2013

Jennifer and Alex met at the archetypal school disco. Both 15, they stood with their friends at opposite ends of Jennifer's school hall in Chertsey, Surrey, boys at one end and girls at the other, nursing Panda Pops and exchanging awkward glances. No one danced.

They may have never met had it not been for Jennifer, who caught Alex's eye during a performance. "Tragically [I sang] *Unbreak my Heart* by Toni Braxton," Jennifer says. "I like to think he was mesmerised." She must have been right for afterwards, he asked a mutual friend — in a way only a teenager could — to invite her to his 16th birthday party. The rest is history.

While much has changed in their lives since that point, their relationship has remained a constant. While Jen

read modern languages at Southampton University, Alex read medicine at the University of Cambridge. Their lengthy courses — four and six years, respectively — meant that they relied on Skype and the rail network to stay together over the years. But the distance between them meant that their relationship "moved up a level", Jennifer says. "It became more serious."

When Jennifer spent a year in Frankfurt, the couple took it as an opportunity to indulge in their love of travel. Over the years they have visited Italy, Croatia, India, China, Tanzania and Colombia. "When we met, we came from the same place: moving away has given us the opportunity to grow and develop." That they would stay together was never in doubt.

Earlier this year, they visited Brussels for a long weekend to mark Jen's birthday. "Whenever we go on holiday, I work out the itinerary, I carry the passports and direct what we do," she says. "I'm the planner, while Alex is so laid-back, he's horizontal." But on this occasion, Alex had done all the work. From lunch at a tapas restaurant to a concert at an opera house and champagne and seafood in the evening,

Alex planned their trip down to the last detail. Alex directed them to a quiet courtyard as they walked home through the gardens of the Royal Palace — and proposed.

The couple will marry next year in a wedding with 110 guests. Having visited 20 venues, the couple finally chose to hold their reception at [the Olde Bell](#), a coaching inn in Hurley, Berkshire. They will be married nearby at the church of St Mary the Virgin.

Jennifer will wear her mother's veil, which she had made with her mother, Jennifer's grandmother.

The couple have spent eight years together, but have yet to share a house. This is something they are saving for after the wedding.

