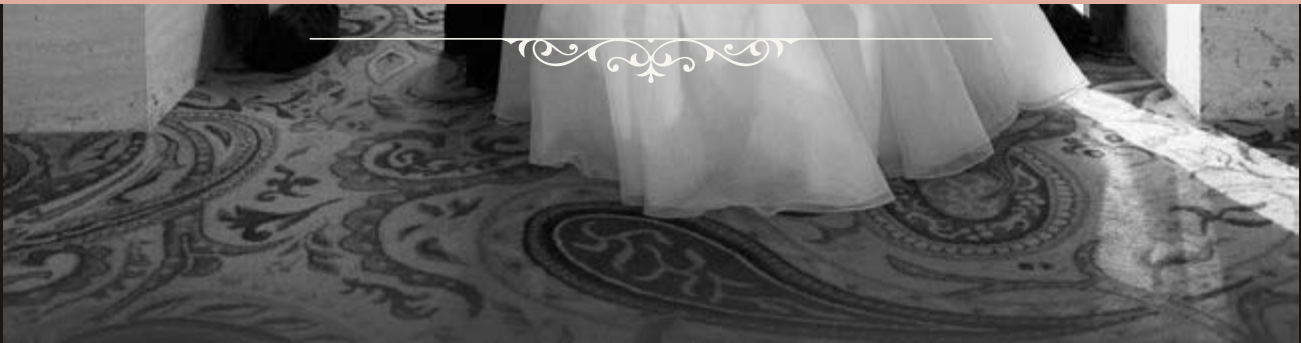




150 YEARS OF MATRIMONY





## A HOTEL BUILT ON *love*

### SEALED WITH A KISS

Potter Palmer was a Chicago business magnate—well-known for a variety of endeavors, including his significant role in the development of downtown Chicago’s iconic State Street.

Bertha Honoré Palmer, 23 years Potter’s junior, was a wealthy socialite who also had a drive to learn and succeed.

An introduction by Potter’s former business partner, Marshall Field, sparked a romance—and eventual engagement—between Potter and Bertha that led to perhaps one of the most extravagant wedding gifts of all time, the Palmer House Hotel. It was a grand Chicago Hotel, one destined to take its place among the most luxurious hotels in Chicago and beyond.

However, only 13 days after its grand opening, the Palmer House fell victim to the Great Chicago Fire. But that didn’t deter Potter. Determined to rebuild his hotel, Potter secured a \$1.7 million loan—negotiated on his signature alone. On November 8, 1873, the new Palmer House welcomed its first guests, marking the opening of what would become the nation’s longest continually operating hotel.

# SESQUICENTENNIAL *proposal*

## HONORE & PALMER PACKAGE

### FINE POINTS

- Three hour hosted bar parcel
- 4 butler passed hors d'oeuvres
- Champagne toast
- Three course meal includes meal decision tasting for 6
- Bertha Palmer 1879 china place-setting valued at \$30K for couple at dinner reception

### NICETIES

- Satin lamour table linens with complementing serviettes
- Framed table numbers
- Votive candles three per table
- Personalized menu cards with each place setting
- One complimentary microphone
- One complimentary quad box

### PARTICULARS

- Two complimentary evenings in one bedroom suite accommodation for couple. Upgraded one bedroom suite accommodations for the parents of bride and groom at the preferred standard guestroom wedding room block rate
- Two complimentary "I do" parlor suites on the wedding day to serve as wedding attire & glam room
- Preferred standard guestroom wedding block rate of \$150
- Complimentary Palmer House brownie at check-in for arriving overnight guests



# EMANATING PASSION, LOVE & *adventure*

## RED LACQUER ROOM

Among the more dazzling events that have occurred in the Palmer House, took place in the Red Lacquer Ballroom in 1989, during the bicentennial of the French Revolution. The hotel's valued client, the Chicago chapter of the French American Chamber of Commerce was planning a high end, black-tie event in the hotel commemorating the 200TH Anniversary of the overthrow of the French Monarchy.

However, when the organizers of the event went to book the Empire Room, which pays homage to Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, they learned that the room had long been blocked and unavailable. For whatever reasons, the French Chamber could not change their planned date. All that was available on the chosen date was the Red Lacquer Ballroom. The Chamber grabbed it and proceeded to plan the gala evening.

To ensure that the event was a major success, the Chamber sought a famous female French entertainer—Patachou, Edith

Piaf, Leslie Caron and others. None was available.

It was then that the Chamber performed a miracle. With the help of the French government and Air France, they got the entire cast of the historic Lido de Paris to come to America to perform at the gala in the Red Lacquer Ballroom in the Palmer House! Singers, dancers, musicians—and 15 of the exotic female dancers for which the Lido is known on the Champs Elysees in Paris.

Diagrams of the Red Lacquer Ballroom went back and forth so that the ballet master in Paris could block the performance – primarily the parade of the Lido showgirls throughout the room. It was agreed that a double horseshow shaped runway through the tables be furnished by the Chamber.

When the buses arrived at the hotel from O'Hare with the dancers et al, the ballet master wanted to immediately see the Red Lacquer Room where the show and the dancers would perform the following evening. When he saw the room (the

runways had not been set up) he was more than pleased.

The day of the gala, the ballet master called for a full dress rehearsal at 3:00 pm. The runways were now in place and the tables in between them already set with linen, china, flowers, etc. The room was flourishing with French flags and bunting.

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NOTE: NONE OF THE GIRLS IN THE LIDO DE PARIS ARE FROM FRANCE. THE GIRLS WHO DANCED IN THE LIDO WERE SIX FEET TALL, STATUESQUE AND EITHER FROM SWEDEN, GERMANY OR DENMARK.

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Now the girls who are six feet tall are even taller in high heels—and—wearing a three and half foot headdress, standing on a two and half foot high runway! The girls are now over eight feet from the floor. Once they started to move, their headdresses got caught in the bottom of the chandeliers!



## THE ORIGINAL MC

The hotel's rich history extends to the subbasement vault which stores racks of gold-trimmed Haviland bone china, whose sets today are valued at \$30,000 each, from a legendary party given in 1879 to honor President Ulysses S. Grant. In 1879, the "Greatest Banquet in American History" was celebrated at the hotel. Commemorating the return of President Ulysses S. Grant after his trip around the World, Potter and Bertha Palmer hosted a gala dinner for 500 dignitaries including honoring Civil War heroes, General William Sherman and Phillip Sheridan. Among those in attendance Palmer's friend, Mark Twain was the master of ceremonies, making this dinner and hotel talked about for ages to come.

Panic broke out with this very high end evening about to begin in less than three hours!

Lido de Paris rules state that no changes be made to costumes of performers. The dancers had to appear with their headdresses. The problem was with the chandeliers. In less than two hours, hotel carpenters were rushed to raise

the three offending chandeliers as high as possible to accommodate the Lido de Paris dancers. The evening was an astounding success....and not one guest knew of the impending peril, or noticed that three of the chandeliers were higher than the others.

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FURTHER NOTE: MOST OF THE GIRLS WHO DANCED IN THE LIDO USED THEIR PAY TO FINANCE THEIR EDUCATIONS AS LAWYERS, DOCTORS AND OTHER PROFESSIONS.

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*true story.*



## EVERY LOVE STORY STARTS WITH A *stunning setting* GRAND & STATE BALLROOM

Some of the most glittering social galas and balls have taken place in the fabled Palmer House Hilton's Grand and State Ballroom(s) for nearly a century. However, one of the most memorable events is the now historic luncheon hosted by the Chicago Women's Advertising Association in the early 1990's. (Ted Ratcliff was the new General Manager)

The keynote speaker for this event was none other than the late John F. Kennedy Jr. then publisher of GEORGE Magazine. When the announcement broke that JFK, Jr., would be the attraction, the event completely sold out in less than six hours! The event booked 150 rounds of ten, or 1500 guests—literal capacity for the

Grand and State. The wait list was more than 500. Kennedy's Palmer House appearance drew gigantic advance press, however media was not allowed at the event itself. Movie star handsome Kennedy who lived in the hotel for two days proved to be one of the kindest, most affable and genuinely sincere VIP's ever. And none of his stay and appearance included Secret Service personnel, bodyguards or any kind of private security. When Kennedy realized his passport had expired, and had a planned trip to France following speaking at the Palmer House, he walked to and from the Dirksen Federal Building—by himself—before he spoke—to get the passport reinstated! (Illinois Supreme Court Judge Abraham Lincoln

Marovitz recognized him and expedited Kennedy's reinstatement.)

It was when Kennedy returned from the Dirksen building that we put to full use PDR 4, now called the Indiana Room on the third floor. Potter Palmer 11, who built the present hotel foresaw that presidents, royalty, heads of state and major celebrities could not make their entrance through throngs of people, and created the small room one floor below the Grand and State with a concealed door leading to a staircase up ending at the very back of the Grand Ballroom on the fourth floor!

Kennedy entered and exited safely using this brilliant Palmer House architectural feature.



## LOVE AT FIRST *bite*

### RECEPTION HORS D'OEUVRES

#### COLD

- Ratatouille stuffed cherry tomato
- Traditional tomato basil bruschetta
- Caprese, basil, heirloom tomato spear
- Smoked salmon rosette on pumpkinnickel

#### HOT

- Baked brie, apricot enveloped in phyllo
- Bacon enfolded date
- Wild mushroom satchel
- Petit beef wellington

# on this day

## I THEE FED

### PREMIER COURS

Select either Soup or Salad.

#### SOUP

- Palmer House signature roasted tomato garden basil
- Roasted butternut squash cinnamon apples
- 1909 Cream of Asparagus dill crème fraiche

#### SALAD

- **Cucumber Ribbon Salad**  
season greens wrapped with cucumber ribbon, tomato, dried cranberries, toasted walnuts, balsamic vinaigrette
- **Caesar**  
romaine spears, red & yellow grape tomatoes, shaved parmesan, creamy Caesar dressing
- **Brie Poached Pear Salad**  
hydroponic bibb lettuce, red oak lettuce, frisee lettuce, red wine poached pear, brie cheese, red wine vinaigrette

### DEUXIEME COURS

Plated entree served with pasta, rice, couscous or potato selection and vegetable medley.

- Amish breast of chicken parmesan panko crust, pan jus
- Organic breast of chicken marsala reduction, mushrooms
- Pork tenderloin herb roasted, demi glace
- Grilled vegetable Napoleon roasted Portobello mushroom, herbed polenta

### TROISIEME COURS

- **Gelato Basil Parfait**  
strawberry compote, vanilla bean gelato, chocolate biscotti
- **Chocolate Hazelnut Crunch Biscuit**  
rich chocolate mousse, sea salt caramel cream
- **Chocolate Flourless Cake**  
intense chocolate cake, chocolate ganache
- **Strawberry Shortcake**  
chocolate ganache ball, strawberry, cake, shortbread, chantilly cream
- **150th Anniversary Brownie Seven Tier Sundae**  
brownie bottom layer, alternating layers of French vanilla ice cream and brownie brittle chocolate mousse, chocolate sauce, elderberry macerated apricots, fresh apricots, Champagne-currant candied walnuts and edible gold flakes.





# peacock parcel

MAY THE WINGS OF  
LOVE NEVER LOSE A  
FEATHER

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BAR PACKAGE

3 hour duration. Champagne toast included.

### SPIRITS

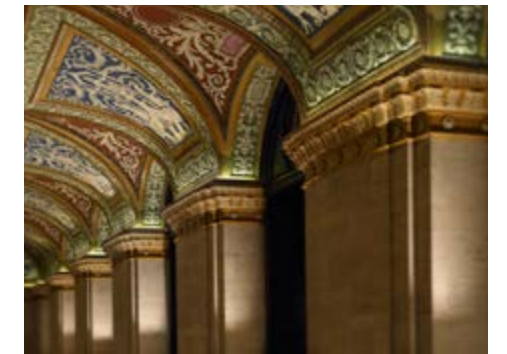
- Vodka Absolut
- Gin Tanguery
- Rum Barcardi Superior
- Tequila 1800 Silver
- Bourbon Bulleit
- Whisky Jack Daniel's
- Scotch Dewar's 12
- Cordials DeKuyper

### BEER SELECTION OF TWO

- Blue Moon
- Boston Lager
- Bud Light
- Corona Extra
- Heineken 0.0 non alcoholic
- Samael Adams
- Stella Artois

### HOUSE WINES

- Chardonnay
- Pinot Grigio
- Cabernet
- Merlot



The jewel of the 25-story building's interior is, surely, the lobby. Its magnificent domed ceiling, by the French muralist Louis Pierre Rigal, is composed of 21 unique frescoes, each designed with intricate depictions of prominent figures in Greek mythology such as Aphrodite the goddess of love; Apollo the god of music; and Pluto the god of the underworld. Louis Comfort Tiffany designed the 24-karat gold-dipped chandeliers, as well as the majestic Winged Angels, at 1.25 tons each the largest bronze statues he'd ever produced. The Italian marble staircase is one of only two constructed in this particular manner; the other is in London's St. Paul's Cathedral.

Renovation has been a continual process throughout the years. The lobby ceiling has been restored inch by painstaking inch by Lido Lippi, who'd undertaken a similar project for the Sistine Chapel, and after he'd been commissioned by Jackie Kennedy for a project at The White House. The ceiling and winged angels were once again restored in 2019 by the restoration couple Mata and Anthony Kartsonas of Historic Surfaces, whose past credits include work on the U.S. Capitol building, Clara and Henry Ford's Fair Lane estate and Chicago's Auditorium Theatre.



CROWNED  
*jewel*  
 THE EMPIRE ROOM

The Empire Room of the Palmer House is the architectural signature for the entire hotel. Designed in the style of the High French Empire, the room's staircase, statuary and entry pay homage to the Paris Opera. The architectural firm of Hollibird and Roche purposely designed the Empire Room so that it would be at mid-point in height of the hotel's lobby. The grand staircase immediately catches the eye when one is entering the hotel telling visitors and guests that whatever takes place in the room is extraordinary.

Originally, the hotel's fine dining room in 1924, The Empire Room during the 1933 World's Fair—the Century of Progress—decided to ramp up the room's appeal by adding dancing in the evenings during the period of the Fair. This tactic was targeted to those well-heeled visitors coming to Chicago to attend the Fair. It worked.

When the Fair ended in 1934, the hotel dispensed with dancing assuming the expense of a dance band was no longer needed. As the nation was pulling out of the Great Depression, the public was becoming more optimistic and out of towners and Chicagoans alike—who weren't here for the Fair—were asking about the dancing.

It was at that point, the Empire Room became a "night club." Potter Palmer hired Merriel Abbott. Abbott was a local choreographer and owner of a dance studio specializing in furnishing chorus lines to local movie theatres for their stage shows between the silent films. The concept of dinner and dancing in the Empire Room continued until 1945, when Conrad N. Hilton purchased the Palmer House. Hilton loved the night life, and was considered a great dancer himself. He ordered a full stage built, and lighting and sound added to the room. He challenged Abbott to escalate the entertainment from just dancing to full cabaret reviews featuring one, two and three opening acts, prefacing well known stars from Hollywood, Broadway, radio and early television, followed by dancing. For the next 30 years, the Empire Room in Chicago became the number one venue for the world's most luminary entertainers. If a major star was appearing in Chicago, they appeared at the Empire Room, along with the greatest orchestras of the big band era. We pay homage to these stars with their photos on the guest room floors.

With the advent of television, Las Vegas and the large entertainment venues, the American night club was losing appeal to entertainers. No matter who or how big the entertainer was, they had to work 21 days straight, doing two performances on Friday and Saturdays, playing to no more than 250 guests. With the advent of the larger venues (the first was the Aire Crown Theatre which seats 4000 people) performers could now play two or three nights and make the same money as working 21 days in the Empire Room.

Phyllis Diller in 1976, was the last entertainer to play the Empire Room as a public venue.

Since then, the Empire Room has and continues to be the site of some of the most important private events in Chicago. The Empire Room name and crown continue to mean something very special.

Famous Performers include Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Louie Armstrong, Dean Martin, Sonny & Cher, Liberace, Carol Channing, Harry Belafonte, Jack Benny, Jimmy Durante, Eartha Kitt, Maurice Chevalier and Liberace, among hundreds of others.

In fact, performers of the Empire Room have prominent visibility paying them homage on each of our guestroom floors. Before you retreat to your room this evening, peruse the halls to uncover the hundreds of others.



# little details

## MAKE BIG THINGS HAPPEN

### INFORMATION

#### DEPOSIT / PAYMENT REQUIREMENT & GUARANTEE

Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel requires a non-refundable deposit of \$3,500USD due during contract actualization (signing). A payment schedule, including tax & service charges, will be provided by your catering manager. The balance is due seven business days prior to the event. A final guarantee of attendance is required by 12:00 PM, seven business days prior to the scheduled event. This guarantee cannot be decreased.

#### SERVICE CHARGE & TAX

Pricing does not include current taxes & service charge (18.5% service charge, 8% administrative fee, 10.25% tax on administrative fee, & 11.75% tax on food & beverage). Tax may fluctuate with city increases.

#### AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT

Equipment & services are provided by Presentation Services, located in Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Charges may be obtained from your catering manager.

#### CEREMONY & PIANO TUNING FEES

A ceremony fee will be charged based on ballroom selection. Consult your catering manager for details. Upright & baby grand pianos are available. There is a \$175 tuning fee per piano. Pianos are subject to availability.

#### COAT CHECK

Coat check services are required for all social events between October 1st & April 30th. One coat check attendant is required per 100 guests at a rate of \$300 per attendant.

#### ELECTRICAL & SOUND

Services are provided by Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Charges may be obtained from your catering manager.

#### WELCOME BAGS

Welcome bags for wedding guests staying at Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel can be delivered for a charge of \$6 each. The front desk is unable to hand out welcome bags upon guest check in.

#### SEATING

Banquet seating configurations adhere to Hilton EventReady with CleanStay guidelines as well as local government guidelines. Modifications are subject to additional charges. Parking

Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel offers valet parking at our Monroe Street entrance. Self-parking is available at 55 East Monroe Street. Discounted rates are available through your catering manager for evening events only & are based upon availability. Special rates do not apply to overnight parking. Rates are subject to change.



# BLUSHING *bride*

## HONORE BALLROOM

The Honore Ballroom is named after Bertha Palmer's maiden name. Bertha's father Henry Nathaniel Honore was from Louisville, Kentucky and was in a failed steamboat initiative on the Mississippi. Honore was one of the few southerners moving north and brought his wife, two little daughters (one being Bertha) and four boys to Chicago to begin a new life in "the land of the smelling onions"—Chicago.

The bestowing of the Honore name to the ballroom is relatively new. When the present Palmer House opened in 1925, the room was called "The Victorian Dining Room" and was an opulent environment festooned and decorated in the period of the mid to late 19th century. Lavish oil paintings as high as

seven feet tall—portraits of 19th century luminaries—hung on the walls. Several still remain in the present hotel. Dolley and James Madison (on the northeast side of the lobby) and the great Swedish Soprano, Jenny Lind, presides at the top of the steps to the Penthouse.

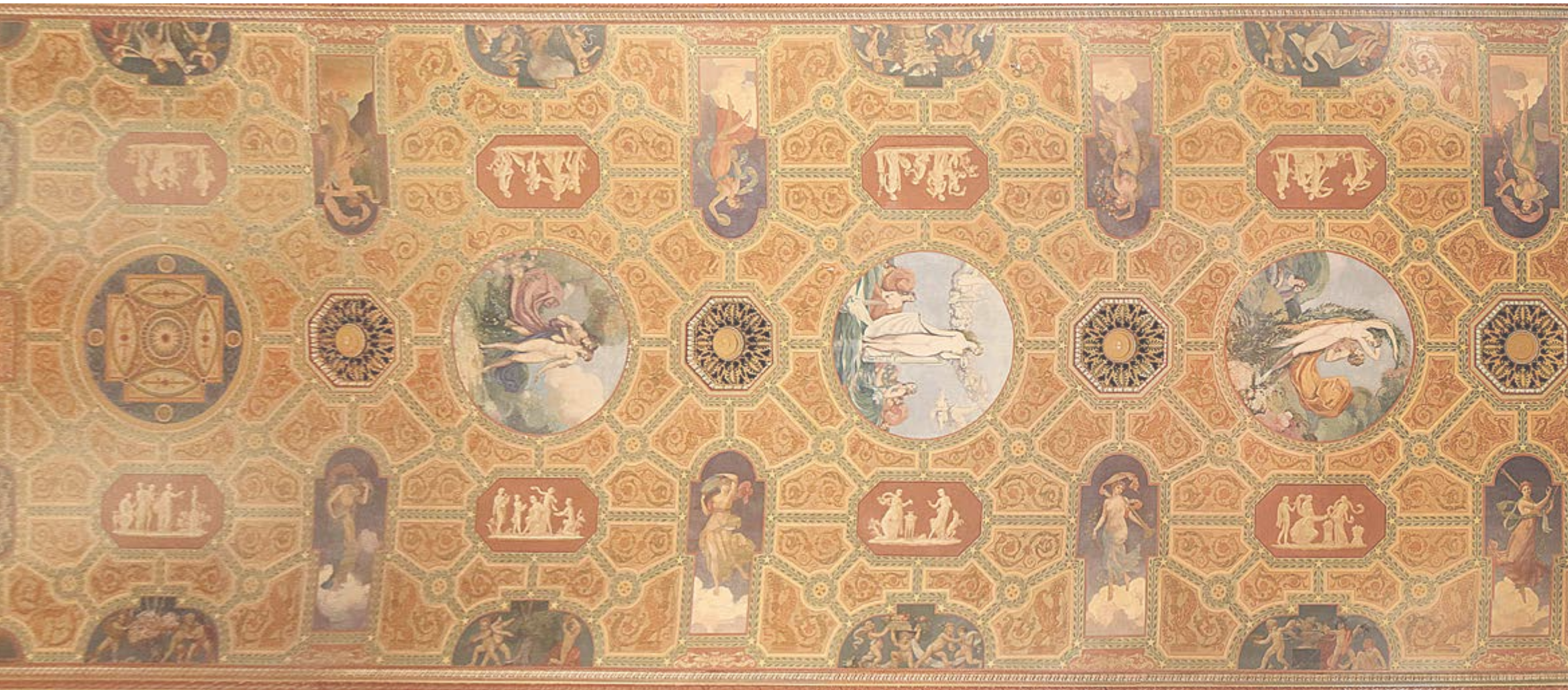
Performing nightly in the Victorian room was the extremely popular Ralph Ginsburg string orchestra, playing light classics. (We have recordings of the Ginsburg orchestra in the hotel's Museum). It is believed that Ginsburg owned and played a Stradivarius in his performances.

In the mid 50's, management decided to do a total about face with the formal look and feel of the Victorian Room, and completely

redesigned it to a New Orleans themed three meal restaurant called "The French Quarter."

The French Quarter operated until 2006, with the beginning of the limiting the number of restaurants in the hotel—and changing the room to a venue for private functions. When it came time to "name" the new function space, it was realized that nowhere in the hotel did we recognize Bertha's maiden name—hence it was christened the Honore Ballroom. To complete the recognition, a reproduction of the Anders Zorn oil painting of Bertha Honore Palmer (now at the Art Institute of Chicago) was created and now hangs with great pageantry over the grand fire place mantle.





The Palmer House's ceiling, resplendent with 21 panels of Greek mythological scenes that spring to life in rich paints and raised plaster, could rival that of the Sistine Chapel.

In fact, when the ceiling was restored a decades ago, it was at the hands of Liddo Lippe, the same master craftsman who repaired Michelangelo's Vatican City masterpiece. Lippe worked flat on his back, raised on

scaffolding, throughout the night so as not to disturb the guests. "We kind of made a show of him," says Ken Price, the Palmer House's director of public relations. "We'd roll out the scaffolding every evening around 9

and play Mozart while he worked on the ceiling."

Most recently in 2019, a major restoration of the iconic French-inspired lobby. The work will focused on the room's 21 ceiling

murals from Art Deco painter Louis Pierre Rigal and its 1.25-ton, 24-karat gold winged candelabras designed by Tiffany & Co. The restoration was led by husband and wife team Anthony and Mata Kartsonas

of Historic Surfaces, whose past credits include work on the U.S. Capitol building, Clara and Henry Ford's Fair Lane estate in Detroit, and Chicago's Auditorium Theatre.



"WE'D ROLL OUT THE SCAFFOLDING EVERY EVENING AROUND 9 AND PLAY MOZART WHILE HE WORKED ON THE CEILING."



Real  
love isn't just a  
euphoric, spontaneous  
feeling – it's a deliberate  
choice – a plan to love each  
other for better and worse,  
for richer and poorer,  
in sickness and in  
health.