**BEST MAN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**KULLING ABI**

Hello everyone! It is great to be here and to celebrate the love and share the joy that bring us together at weddings. (**Name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want to congratulate Stephanie and Francis as they “make it official” even though we **ALL** know they have shared their love for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. I would like to congratulate Stephanie’s mother, Georgette, as she officially welcomes Francis to the family. (**Do you want to mention the parents who are deceased? If so you can say**) I am also sure that your parents, (**name Frank’s parents and Stephanie’s father**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, are looking down upon you today and are all very happy to watch over you and to share this happiness.

Of course **EVERY** wedding is special, but to me, this one is **REALLY** unique. Today we’re honoring friendship, family, and the proof that it's not only love that is the international language spoken by all of us, it is also music that brings us together and speaks to our hearts. Francis and Stephanie, I know you understand exactly what I mean… and for those of you that may not, I will soon explain.

I have known Francis for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. For those of you that know Francis like I do, you know that he is thoughtful and reserved. He’s kind and considerate, observant and, of course, head over heels in love with Stephanie and their two children, Frank and Kerianne. Music is a big part of Frank’s life and as a result, music has brought him many gifts. If you want to see pure happiness, just get a glimpse of him hanging out in his basement, having a drink, sharing some stories and laughs, and dancing with Stephanie…. It shows us living proof of how simple joy, friendship, family… and some good tunes… are all we need in life.

Bob Marley said, “ One good thing about music- when it hits you, you feel no pain.” I know two people who will never forget one special night. Francis was staying in town working and doing DJ duties part time in Toledo…. He was becoming well known in the area for playing music at many of the African events around town, and let's face it… what is cooler than a man at his turntable? (**Wait for the laugh**). He received many compliments for playing so well, but during one of those occasions, a young lady who was staying on campus visited one of the events at which Francis was “doing his thing.” That young woman was Stephanie, and when she heard familiar sounds, it really spoke to her…. After all, she had the same music at home….the same Cameroonian music… in the same order as she played at home… and it was all music that she really loved. She expressed her joy and her excellent dance moves…. And the rest is history. Stephanie approached Francis and told him how much she enjoyed the music. A connection began to form. Soon after, they met again at a friend’s house. Stephanie was braiding a child’s hair and Francis knew what he had to do…. He asked Stephanie for her number. (**If you want to make a little joke you can say**)…. I don't think he needed to have his hair braided…. **that** night (**and wait for the laugh**) the telephone friendship began and Francis would call occasionally and check in to see how Stephanie was doing. One night, on her birthday in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**date not clear in notes-please fill in**), as she was going through some tough times with her family, he called and felt something didn't seem right. Francis requested permission to visit Stephanie and although she was hesitant, she agreed. They talked together for hours, and the bond was formed. They began to date…. And although he didn't get his hair braided, their lives became intertwined forever.

Stephanie, you are a beautiful person both inside and out. You have a beautiful heart, a kind soul, and a caring way about you that serves your family, friends, and community… and that francophone background…. That adds a “Je ne sais quoi” elegance to everything you do! It's clear to see how you love life in the way you share your joy… with laughter and dance, with Francis and your kids by your side. What a night that was a few months ago when (**name your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I shared date night with you and Francis… drinking…. eating… fun at the casino… laughing til 3 am… downtown Cleveland will never be the same!

Francis, it has always been fun to hang out with you and I am so honored to be your best man. You have a beautiful family and I know I speak for all of us when I say we wish you and Stephanie, Frank and Kerianne all the best life can provide.

(**If you want to propose a toast you can say**) Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you all to raise a glass as I propose a toast to the bride and groom:

To Stephanie and Francis, it's been said that “Music is love and music is life.” It brought the two of you together. May you spend your lives dancing to your own special beat, and may you know only love and laughter, health and happiness, family, friendship and prosperity. Congratulations!