



Only in The Villages

LIFE IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

High-Energy
Song, Dance
Performance
Catapults
Into Holiday
Festivities

By **KRISTEN FIORE**
Daily Sun Staff Writer

The curtains rose for 10 performers clad in dazzling red outfits dancing across the stage as "American Idol" finalists Rayvon Owen and Adanna Duru sang "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

Participants from "Dancing with the Stars," "So You Think You Can Dance" and "American Idol" gave a high-energy performance before a crowd of television and Christmas fans Tuesday night at The Sharon.

"We are 'Dancing with the Stars' fanatics," said Lynn Plourde, of Hernando. "And we want to see Tony," added her friend, Linda Berger.

Please See **DANCE, A20**



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Karina Smirnoff and Tony Dovolani dance the opening number to the "Dance to the Holidays" show Tuesday at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.



Daily Sun - Dec. 20th, 2017

Tony Dovolani and Karina Smirnoff from "Dancing with the Stars" were a big part of the attraction for many of the people who came to see the "Dance to the Holidays" show.

Dovolani and Smirnoff acted as the emcees of the show, and had a funny and personable stage-presence throughout the performance.

"What a wonderful community you have here," Dovolani said. "I love the big Christmas tree and how you guys dance to the band out there. I saw the same four people do a line dance for three hours! Also, I love the golf carts."

"He wants to steal one," Smirnoff told the audience conspiratorially.

Of course, another big part of the appeal was the festive-theme.

Deb Browning, of the Village Palo Alto, is a big "Dancing with the Stars" fan.

"She never misses an episode," said her husband, Bud.

"But he's not here for the dancing," Deb said, nudging Bud. "He's here for the Christmas part of it. He loves Christmas shows."

And the holiday festivities did not fall short.

As Owen sang "Let it Snow," dancers in gloves and sparkling dresses with white fringe twirled around while a snowy scene ensued on the backdrop.

At the end of the number, fake snow blew onto the stage while the audience cheered.

From a massive sing-along to "This Christmas" to an audience Q&A segment with Dovolani and Smirnoff, the crowd was involved throughout the entire show.

There was plenty of variation in the numbers; each one came with its own mood, costumes, lighting and backdrop.

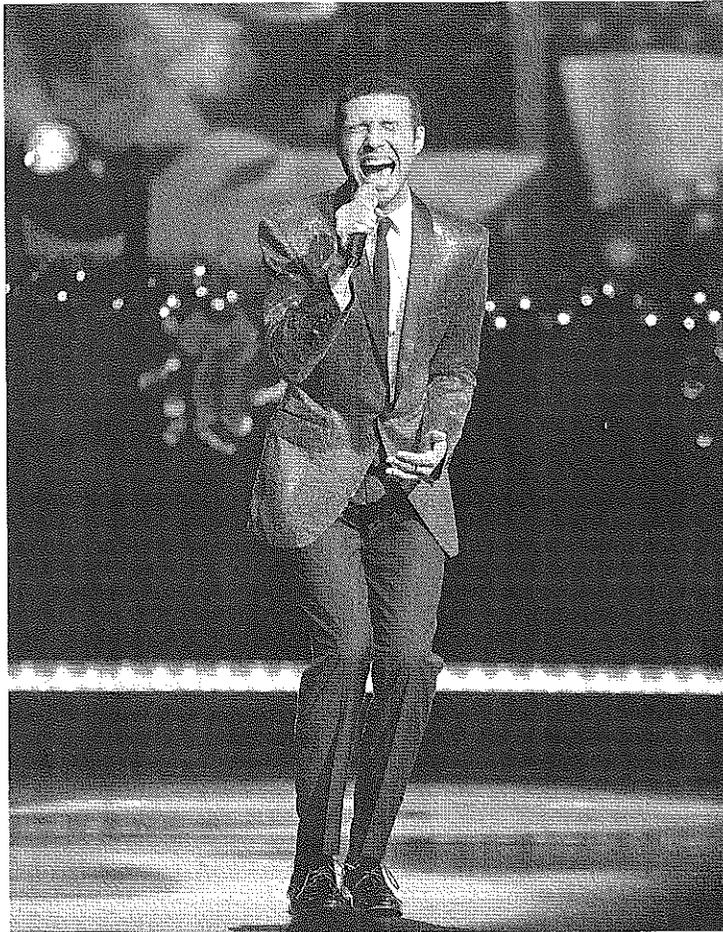
While Owen and Duru sang "Baby it's Cold Outside" Dovolani and Smirnoff waltzed across the stage and Dovolani twirled Smirnoff so low that her satin blue dress swept the floor.

Another number started with a dancer carrying a present walking onto the stage from the audience and knocking on the closed curtain, which lifted to reveal a full-on Christmas party set in a living room with couches,

from the front page



Dancers perform to the song "Let It Snow" Tuesday evening at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.



Rayvon Owen sings "This Christmas" during the "Dance to the Holidays" show on Tuesday evening.



Karina Smirnoff and Tony Dovolani, of "Dancing with the Stars," dance to the song "Baby, It's Cold Outside."

Photos by Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Pg. 3

DANCE

Continued from A1

a Christmas tree and a record player.

And even though it was still warm as the sun went

down over The Sharon, the performers transformed the stage inside the building into a winter wonderland.

SOUTHERN TRACE DENTAL A Private Practice