

2013 Twin Cities Open Championships

Reviewed and written by Suzanne Nyemchek

Another well run, well-organized Dancer's Cup Tour event took place in Minneapolis this past July 10-13. The Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships, the fifth stop on the tour was an exciting, hotly contested weekend. There were over 6,000 entries and a full ballroom every day. Heavy competition in both American Smooth and Rhythm made for twelve-hour matinee sessions. Louis Bar danced over 700 entries and was crisp and energetic each time he was on the floor. There were many Pro/Am men competitors this year and as a result five of the ten Top Teacher awards went to female instructors!

A friendly, courteous atmosphere was felt throughout the weekend thanks to Scott and Amy Anderson's hospitality and experience as organizers. Scott was always present to handle any requests and was handing out home baked cookies to all. This is a long-standing "TCO" tradition! Downtown Minneapolis was such a treat for all the "out of towners" especially the ones escaping extreme heat almost everywhere else in the country. Every restaurant had an outdoor café and trendy, delicious cuisine. The stores were nearby as was the "Mall of America" where there is no sales tax on clothing!!! Besides the Twin Cities Open event happening downtown, there was the Kenny Chesney concert just two blocks away at Target Field, and a huge outdoor Block Party within walking distance from the competition which made the area THE place to be!!

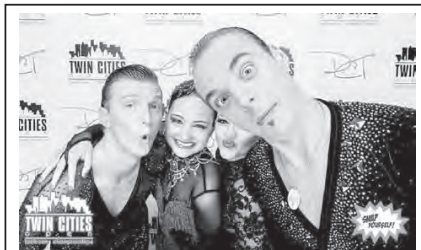


Photo by Snap It Yourself, courtesy of Twin Cities Open

The Midwest is filled with talented Pro/Am dancing, and it seemed that most of them were present at the Twin Cities Open! Quarter and Semi-finals were held in most of the Championships and Scholarships. Stand out Bronze level competitors were Spencer Loufck with teacher, Kirsten McCloskey (St. Paul) and CeCe Swanson with Eric Hudson (St. Paul). Stand out Silver competitors were Sue Iverson with teacher, Jay Larson and Danielle King with teacher, Sergiy Shapoval (NV). Stand out's in the Open levels were Scott Skinner with teacher Michelle Hudson winning the "B" Smooth Scholarship, and Adel Jaena with teacher Gene Bersten.



Jonathan Chen & Nadine Messenger
Photo by Karin Lynn Photography



Top Teachers

Photo by Karin Lynn Photography

One of the most fun additions to this event was the "Snap Yourself!!" photo booth that was set up during the Friday sessions! There were many hilarious moments as people could let their hair down and have fun – all of this was provided by Scott and Amy free of charge!! Another nice part of TCO is the "Judges Picks" Awards – here the recipients are those students that have stood out to the judges throughout



Markus Cannon & Tallis Strub

Photo by Karin Lynn Photography

the weekend – and is not based on number of entries and placements. Some of the recipients were Russ Longley who received the "An Inspiration" and Elise Dornier who was "Best in Show!"

I also want to acknowledge that Scott and Amy had a "AED" Defibrillator available at the event. This was donated by the local American Heart Association. This has been a topic of discussion amongst Organizers and the NDCA and it was great to see the Anderson's being proactive on this!

As comfortable as the air was outside the hotel, Saturday evening's ballroom activities were full of heat and energy. In the Showdance category there were five couples. Marcus Cannon and Tallis Strub from Iowa did a lyrical number in barefeet. They were well matched throughout the entire routine. Tallis obviously has had extensive ballet training. They displayed good partnership yet the routine seemed a bit long. Tallis has a great sense of balance and always knows where her center is. The ending seemed

like it was going to be huge as the music escalated, yet the end left us wanting more. They took 2nd place in this event. First place went to Sergiy Shapoval and Ania Tarnowska from Nevada. She wore 3 inch heels and never wavered. Here is another girl with a perfect sense of balance and rhythm. Their number tonight was an interpretive Latin dance. It was well executed with lots of speed and stretch. It was easy to see why they were the clear winners. Third place



Sergiy Shapoval & Ania Tarnowska
Photo by Karin Lynn Photography

went to Dustin Donelan and Kirsten McCloskey from Minnesota. They performed a medley to music by hometime music legend, Prince. This was my favorite routine with smooth transitions, great outfits, and exciting choreography. This girl is a well trained yet natural dancer. The couple taking fourth place was Misha Belfer and Julie Garczynski from Colorado. They did a Viennese Waltz with "Wakefield" speed in their opening lift. Many of the leg lines and kicks

were unfinished. They had a nice illusion with the reversible skirt and had a good look when in dance position. Fifth place went to the new couple Darren Franco and Andrea Kuzel (a former Pro/Am student of Eric Hudson) they chose very dynamic Waltz music and displayed some good, well matched choreography.

Saturday evening's show tied together by the theme "Lady Legends" showcased the Professional Rising Star and Open champions of the weekend. Shapoval and Tarnowska danced a flawless interpretive number and in my opinion was the best dance of the evening! Scott Anderson and his daughter Meghan danced a very entertaining jazz duet set to Judy Garland's "Get Happy." Dustin Donelan and his junior, Dora Dolphin, won the Top Solo awards and brought the house down in this evenings show. What a true talent this young dancer is.

Overall, the Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships was a fun, entertaining, exciting weekend. The Andersons continue to give The Dancer's Cup Tour such a good name. We all look forward to the next stop on the tour in August. See you all at the "Heart of America Dancesport Championships".

PROFESSIONAL RISING STAR RESULTS

SMOOTH

- 1 – Sergiy Shapoval/Ania Tarnowska (1,1,1,1)
- 2 – Igor Afonkin/Rachel Mercedes (2,2,2,2)
- 3 – Gordon & Kate Bratt (4,3,3,3)
- 4 – Ben & Cheryl Seifert (3,4,4,5)
- 5 – Kyle Solis/Ashely Marie (5,6,4,5)
- 6 – Misha Belfer/Julie Garczynski (6,6,5,6)

RHYTHM

- 1 – Dustin Donelan/Kirsten McCloskey (2,1,5,1,5,2,1)
- 2 – Kurt Roberts/Anneliece Velasco (1,3,3,1,2)
- 3 – Jonathan Chen/Nadine Messenger (3,1,5,2,5,3,3)
- 4 – Mitchel Kibel/Bobbie Briceno (4,4,4,5,4)
- 5 – Gordon & Kate Bratt (5,5,4,5)
- 6 – Shane Haggerty/Rachel Damiani (6,7,6,7,6)
- 7 – Marcio & Saori DeSouza (7,6,7,6,7)

BALLROOM

- 1 – Matt Rivers/Maliwan Diemer (2,1,1,1,1)
- 2 – Sarosh Ahmad/Zoe Wydrog (1,2,2,2,2)
- 3 – Trent Quinn/Nandina Snow (3,3,3,3,3)

LATIN

- 1 – Nikita Savva/Anna Milana (1,1,2,5,1,2)
- 2 – Riccardo Papi/Sabrina Moretti (2,2,2,5,2,1)
- 3 – Eugene Pierce/Maria Rose (3,3,1,3,3)
- 4 – Gene & Elena Bersten (4,4,4,4,4)

PROFESSIONAL OPEN RESULTS

SHOWDANCE

- 1 – Sergiy Shapoval/Ania Tarnowska
- 2 – Markus Cannon/Tallis Strub



Scott and Meghan Anderson

Photo by Karin Lynn Photography

- 3 – Dustin Donelan/Kirsten McCloskey
- 4 – Misha Belfer/Julie Garczynski
- 5 – Darren Franco/Andrea Kuzel

SMOOTH

- 1 – Max Sinista/Eulia Baronovsky (1,1,1,1,1)
- 2 – Kostadin Bidjourov/Erin Marie (2,2,2,2)
- 3 – Sergiy Shapoval/Ania Tarnowska (3,3,3,3)
- 4 – Igor Afonkin/Rachel Mercedes (4,4,4,4)
- 5 – Ben & Cheryl Seifert (5,6,5,6)
- 6 – Gordon & Kate Bratt (6,5,6,5)

RHYTHM

- 1 – Ilya & Amanda Reyzin (1,1,1,1,1)
- 2 – Sergiy Shapoval/Ania Tarnowska (2,2,3,2)
- 3 – Hayk Arshakian/Emilia Goldberg (3,3,3,2,3)
- 4 – Dustin Donelan/Kirsten McCloskey (4,4,4,5,5)
- 5 – Kurt Roberts/Anneliece Velasco (5,5,6,4,6)
- 6 – Jonathan Chen/Nadine Messenger (6,6,5,6,4)

BALLROOM

- 1 – Pavel Cherdantsau/Svetlana Rudkovskaya (1,1,1,2,2)
- 2 – Alex Spencer/Natalie Botes (2,2,2,1,1)
- 3 – Matt Rivers/maliwan Diemer (3,4,4,3,3)
- 4 – Sarosh Ahmad/Zoe Wydrog (4,3,3,4,4)
- 5 – Trent Quinn/Nandina Snow (5,5,5,5,5)

LATIN

- 1 – Nikita Savva/Anna Milana (1,2,1,2,1)
- 2 – Riccardo Papi/Sabrina Moretti (2,1,3,1,2)
- 3 – Eugene Pierce/Maria Rose (3,3,2,3,3)
- 4 – Pavel Cherdantsau/Svetlana Rudkovskaya (4,4,4,5)
- 5 – Gene & Elena Bersten (6,5,5,4)
- 6 – Matt Rivers/maliwan Diemer (5,6,6,6,6)
- 7 – Andrew & Michelle Tate (7,7,7,7)

TOP TEACHERS

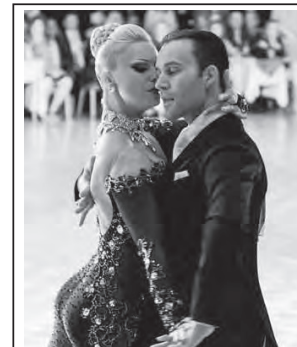
- 1 – Louis Bar (KS)
- 2 – David Scherer (MO)
- 3 – Gary Dahl (MN)
- 4 – David Orcutt (FL)

- 5 – Eric Hudson (MN)
- 6 – Ashley Mayer (MO)
- 7 – Agnieszka Strojek (MO)
- 8 – Greg Marquis (IL)
- 9 – Nadine Messenger (MN)
- 10 – Julie Jacobson (MN)



Ilya & Amanda Reyzin

Photo by Karin Lynn Photography



Max Sinista & Eulia Baronovsky

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