

Ron Hawking

"Home for the Holidays"

A huge Hit at Drury Lane Theater

By Amy Stahr

The holiday season got a wonderful launch this year with Ron Hawking presenting his "Home for the Holidays" Christmas show at the Drury Lane Theater. As the house lights dimmed his band set the mood perfectly with an upbeat holiday overture that got everyone in the mood. Then his two festively dressed back up singers (Lorraine Denham and Kathy Sparrenberger) took their places on stage. And, with their welcoming arms extended, Hawking made his entrance singing his original composition, "Everyone's a Kid at Christmas". The show segued into a wide variety of familiar favorites that included "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year", "Sleigh Ride", "Winter Wonderland", "Let It Snow" among others.

Showing off his vocal versatility, Hawking channeled up uncanny impressions of the voices of familiar stars singing their holiday hits, Bing Crosby and "White Christmas", Nat King Cole and "The Christmas Song", Willie Nelson singing "Pretty Papers", Elvis and "Blue Christmas" to name just a few.

A duet of "Baby It's Cold Outside" with backup singer Lorraine Denham, really warmed up the crowd.

Hawking also took a moment to feature his deft female backup duo, replete with feathered boas, the duo did a masterful job choreographing and singing the Irving Berlin favorite "Sisters" from the movie "White Christmas".

A heartfelt moment with a musical dedication to the troops, complete with video assist of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, had the audience welling up and even choked up Hawking, as he sang "I'll Be Home For Christmas".

Hawking went on to dazzle the audience with more of his show pieces--impressions of Ray Charles, Joe Cocker and Kenny Rogers, with a comedy bit delivered by, none other than, Johnny Carson reading dysfunctional Christmas cards had the audience howling with laughter.

The show-stopper had to be his duet with Kathy Sparrenberger singing their version of "The Prayer" a duet made popular by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion. A gorgeous goose-pimpling rendition—there's no doubt that Hawking and Sparrenberger mesmerized the audience every bit as much as these industry icons--the crowd responded with a unanimous standing ovation.

With Santa Clause making a cameo appearance in the final number, it was truly an evening to remember and a fantastic way to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.