



PARTY TIME
“Everyone was dancing until 2:30 a.m.!” says Herjavec (with members of the wedding party including Cheryl Burke and Carson Kressley).



**Dancing with the Stars’
Kym Johnson
& Robert Herjavec**

Our Dream Wedding!

ONE YEAR AFTER THEY MET AND FELL IN LOVE ON REALITY TV, THE *SHARK TANK* STAR AND *DANCING* PRO ARE OFFICIALLY PARTNERS FOR LIFE

By AILI NAHAS

It’s not every day that Olivia Newton-John sings you “Happy Birthday.” So when Robert Herjavec surprised his brand-new bride, Kym Johnson, with a sweet early birthday serenade from her idol at their July 31 wedding, Johnson was understandably blown away. “I’m still in shock!” says the Australian native, who turns 40 on Aug. 4. “Afterward we sang ‘Let’s Get Physical’ together. It was like a dream!”

It was the personal touches that made the wedding so memorable for *Shark Tank* star Herjavec, 53, and Johnson, a pro dancer, who first met and fell in love when they competed as partners on *Dancing with the Stars* last year. “We didn’t want it to be stuffy,” Johnson says of the sunset nuptials, held at the Four Seasons hotel in Beverly



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1. Florals by the Bouqs adorned each table.

2. The rose-gold-and-diamond wedding bands were designed by jeweler Peter Marco.

3. A personalized handkerchief was Johnson's gift to her groom.

4. At each seat was a Votivo candle; the bridal party received gifts from GiGi New York.

5. Guests like Lance Bass and Michael Turchin grooved to the Gen8 band by Elan Artists.

6. "I was shaking," says Johnson of the surprise Olivia Newton-John performance.

7. The five-tier cake featured layers of lemon and chocolate.

8. "It was the best night ever," says Johnson.



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Johnson surprised Herjavec with a performance by a local Croatian dance group as a tribute to her groom's birthplace.

Hills. "We just wanted everyone to let their hair down and relax."

The joyful celebration was all the more meaningful given the pair's emotional journey to the altar. Herjavec, a father of three grown children (who did not attend the wedding), had recently ended his marriage of 25 years and battled an extreme depression that led him to consider suicide before he met Johnson in 2015. "I never thought I'd get married again," says the Croatian-born, Canada-raised billionaire businessman. "I worried I'd become bitter or an old cat guy. But at the end of the day everybody wants to connect to another human being. When I met Kym, it was just effortless."

For her part, Johnson had resigned herself to the idea of permanent bachelorette status after a decade of dating in L.A. "I had always imagined I'd be married before I was 30," she says. "There's a stigma that if you're single, it's like, 'Poor you.' I was happy with my life. I just wasn't ready to settle."

Sparks flew as the couple rehearsed on *Dancing*, but it took Herjavec a month to get up the nerve to ask Johnson on a date to a friend's wedding last

spring. After that, "things just blossomed," says Johnson. Adds Herjavec: "I fell in love with her as a person, and from then on we were inseparable." And despite Johnson's worry that they'd lose their intense connection after *Dancing* wrapped and they were no longer in 10 hours of rehearsals a day, "it actually became even better," she says. "I didn't think it was possible!" Now, "he's changed my world," says Johnson. "From the beginning, when Robert walked into that dance studio, it's really been like a fairy tale."

Their first dance, to Etta James's "At Last," was a touching tribute to their *Dancing* roots. "We were given that song while we were on *Dancing*," says Johnson, who teared up as she walked down the aisle. "We were excited to do it because we were falling in love. But we were voted out before we could dance it. It's appropriate that it was our first dance as husband and wife."

As a nod to Herjavec's Croatian heritage, male guests, including celebrity pals Donny Osmond, Lance Bass and Daymond John, wore sprigs of rosemary; appetizers included Australian lamb chops and Herjavec's favorite, pigs in a blanket. One of the night's big-

gest hits was a coordinated dance with the entire bridal party to LunchMoney Lewis's "Bills," the first song Johnson and Herjavec cha-cha'd to on *Dancing*. "That part was a little stressful," Herjavec recounted the morning after the ceremony. "Nobody on my side is a dancer! But it was perfect."

Potential disaster was averted during the ceremony, after Johnson unknowingly let the train of her Monique Lhuillier gown pass over a candle along the path as she walked down the aisle. "All of a sudden we smelled something," says Herjavec. "Then we looked and her dress was on fire!" Luckily Johnson's resourceful best friend stomped out the blaze, "before I went up in flames!"

That one mishap aside, for Johnson and Herjavec, "as excited as they were about the wedding, the focus has always been on the marriage," says their planner Michael Russo. "They're building a life together. And their love is truly infectious."

Now they're focused on finally being husband and wife. "When I met Kym, I felt complete. I'm so excited about everything we have to look forward to," says Herjavec. Adds Johnson: "To go through life with someone who makes me feel so loved is unbelievable. I know it's the real thing. And I'm so glad I waited for Mr. Right!" ●

'It's incredible to go through life with someone you love'

—KYM JOHNSON



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