



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

Arts Education Student Profile

You are making a difference in the lives of nearly 83,000 children who benefit from UPAF-funded arts education programming.

Here is just one story of how your gift has made an impact.

When he was just five years old, Andrew Herndon picked up his first trumpet at the Salvation Army, and 13 years later he has yet to put it down. It didn't matter that he didn't have his two front teeth back then; he had discovered something that would become his life-long passion: music.

Andrew studies both classical piano and trumpet, and he credits the [Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra](#) (MYSO) with helping him grow as a musician. "In MYSO, I am surrounded by individuals equally as passionate about music as myself," said Andrew. "Whether it's playing Tchaikovsky, accompanying a professional rock band, collaborating with fantastic mentors like Mr. Mark Niehaus (President and Executive Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra), or just meeting really intelligent, driven individuals, **MYSO has given me many unique opportunities.**"



Andrew has also learned life-long skills through his time studying at MYSO. In particular, he is much more comfortable being in the spotlight. "Whether it is playing a concerto, shooting a free throw, or taking an exam, **I can honestly say that my experience as a performer has equipped me with the tools I need to succeed in life.**"

Ever mindful of the role that UPAF donors play in his ability to participate in MYSO's programming, Andrew is deeply grateful for your generosity. **"I would like to personally thank you for recognizing the value of performing arts.** In a time of diminishing emphasis on the arts, it is important to remember how much picking up an instrument can change a kid's life. After all, it changed mine."



UPAF-funded Member Groups help children explore their creative potential and acquire the skills they need for life-long success.
Thank you for being a vital part of the performance!



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UPAF | 301 W. Wisconsin Ave. | Suite 600 | Milwaukee | WI | 53203