



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

## The Healing Power of the Performing Arts

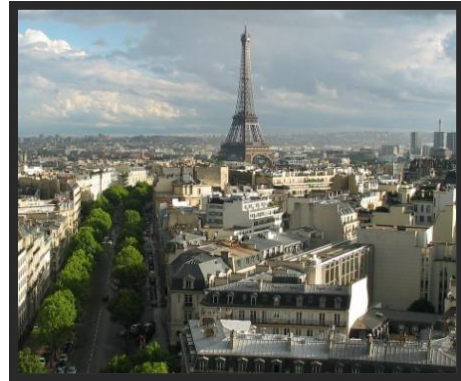
***Read on for an inspiring story about how the performing arts helped a grieving widow begin to find joy again.***

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Carol had been looking forward to her husband's retirement for a long time. With their children grown and out of the house, the couple had made plans to travel to all the places they always dreamed of, and to enjoy everything life had to offer.

But in a blink of an eye, it all changed!

Carol's husband was diagnosed with cancer just a month after his retirement. It was a very aggressive form of the disease, and he passed away within three months of his diagnosis. Carol was left devastated.



### **A New Normal**

Many months of grief passed, and Carol felt she would never climb out of the dark hole she was in. She was very socially isolated and spent a great deal of time alone. Knowing that Carol was suffering immense heartache, her friend, Debbie, asked Carol to attend a performance of the Milwaukee Ballet with a group of her friends. Carol was unsure if she could handle an outing with people she didn't know. Apprehensively, she said "yes."

The Ballet was performing *Giselle*, and Debbie was a little worried that the story line - *a peasant girl dies of a broken heart* - might be tough on Carol. But, the four women gathered for a light dinner and then made the 45-minute car ride from Hartland to downtown Milwaukee.

The car ride was filled with good conversation, and Carol shared how different her life was now without her husband. She tried very hard to keep upbeat. As they



made their way to their seats at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Carol happily remarked, "Do you always sit this close? This is amazing."

### Beauty Heals

The four women raved about the artistry of the ballet performance on the walk to the car and during the drive home. Carol's comments were especially open and poignant, "I

didn't think I would ever find joy in anything again. This was lovely beyond my wildest dreams. I forgot what it felt like to enjoy myself. Thank you all so much!"

Carol is now a ticket subscriber for the Milwaukee Ballet's 2015-16 season and plans on more outings with her new group of friends.

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Thanks to you for supporting our area's world-class performing arts groups. They really are changing lives.



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