



2025 CAMPAIGN WORKPLACE GIVING PERFORMER/SPEAKER GUIDE

Select from UPAF's 14 Member groups and numerous Affiliate organizations to provide inspiring performances, engaging testimonials and interactive workshops to enhance your Workplace Giving Campaign.

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PERFORMANCES THAT INSPIRE:

Music, Dance and Theater

Bring a performance of music, dance or theater into the workplace setting and your co-workers will experience, first-hand, the power of the performing arts! Whether it's 30-60 minutes of background entertainment in the lobby or cafeteria or a 5-10-minute attentive performance included in a presentation, UPAF's Members and Affiliates will add a vibrant atmosphere to your Workplace Giving event. Upon request, performances can be accompanied by a performer testimonial that sheds light on the journey of the artist, and how the performing arts transform lives. All performer requests are subject to performer availability. To ensure optimal performer availability, requests must be made 3-4 weeks prior to the event.

UPAF Member Performances



Your workplace will resonate with beauty and joy when you showcase 1-4 singers and a keyboard/accompanist performing songs from the Broadway catalog or **Bel Canto Chorus** concert repertoire.

Additional requirements: outlet access.



The dynamic artists of **Black Arts MKE** will energize your campaign by performing spoken word, songs, dances, monologues, or scenes from their season's repertoire. Hear firsthand the power of the work we do in the arts! Additional requirements may include: sound system for recorded accompaniment, mics.



Danceworks brings diverse dance forms (contemporary, musical theater, tap, Classical Indian, improvisation, etc.) into your workplace with a virtuosic performance of repertoire from the current season. Or jump into the creative process and collaborate with dancers to devise improvisational structures that inspire new dances, performed on the spot! Additional requirements: For the safety of the dancers, the performance space dimensions and flooring are subject to the artistic director's approval in advance of the performance date, sound system for recorded accompaniment.



Bring a **First Stage** student or alumni into your workplace to share their impactful story and learn about the many ways First Stage makes positive changes in the lives of young people and our community! The student will present a personal testimonial and song or monologue that is sure to entertain and inspire. Additional requirements may include: sound system for recorded accompaniment, mics.



Hate opera? After a riveting performance of some of the great arias, duets, and ensembles presented by **The Florentine Opera**, you may go in 'hating opera' but you're sure to come out an opera lover or appreciator! Performances feature 1-4 singers with piano/keyboard accompanist. Additional requirements: outlet access.



MICHAEL PINK
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Milwaukee Ballet's Second Company (MBII) performs current repertoire, inspiring your workplace with beauty and athleticism that leaps and soars! The artists of MBII are emerging artists from around the world. Following a competitive audition process, they receive a contract to undergo rigorous dance training in preparation for a professional ballet career. MBII's perform their own productions, as well as dance alongside professional Company Artists and serve as covers for them in mainstage productions. They are also wonderful advocates for Milwaukee Ballet's Community Engagement programs, working as instructors for adaptive ballet classes for youth with disabilities, and providing mini performances, demonstrations, and workshops throughout the city. Fifty percent of Company Artists are graduates of the MBII Program.

Alternatively, we are proud to share a beautiful demonstration of ballet work at the barre. Our Pre-Professional Program students (typically age 15-20), who train at the Baumgartner Center for Dance five days a week for seven hours daily in pursuit of a dance career, are sure to impress audiences. Those new to the art form might be surprised that strength, flexibility, agility, grace, beauty, and expressiveness are all woven into ballet dancer's daily warmup.

Additional requirements: For the safety of the dancers, the performance space dimensions and flooring are subject to the artistic director's approval in advance of the performance date; sound system for recorded accompaniment.

Additional requirements may include: sound system for recorded accompaniment, mics.



Matt Daniels on the Ukulele

Actor Matt Daniels sings popular favorites accompanied by his ukulele. Using his signature vocal stylings, he presents tunes from old time Vaudeville all the way up to today's biggest pop hits.... And he's no Tiny Tim: the novelty of the uke disappears almost immediately as audiences fall under the spell of these expertly arranged and skillfully performed songs. You can sing along or sit back and listen; the ukulele is a guaranteed good time!

Steve Watts – Piano/Vocals

Steve is a Milwaukee-based actor/singer/musician who plays and sings primarily pop and rock classics, but also incorporates many other genres into a request-based piano bar style show. He has performed for many years in theatres and clubs internationally, and as a result has accumulated an extensive repertoire of songs.

Additional requirements: armless chairs, outlet access.



Experience the power of theater firsthand with **Milwaukee Repertory Theater!** Performers provide testimonials communicating how the arts have changed their lives and the importance of supporting the arts, paired with songs or monologues that illustrate their craft and accomplishments. Artists include Milwaukee Rep Guest Actors, Emerging Professional Residents and students of the Next Narrative Monologue Competition. Additional requirements may include: sound system for recorded accompaniment, mics, outlet access.



The passion and expertise of **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra** musicians will inspire your workplace with a live performance of instrumental music, showcasing a diverse assortment of music spanning decades, genres and cultures. Solos, duets and trios of renowned Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra musicians are available to play classical or contemporary chamber music. Additional requirements may include: armless chairs, outlet access.



Each season, **Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO)** receives over 100 requests for student musicians to perform and speak throughout our community about how MYSO nurtures, challenges and inspires them. These artists can provide background music or a performance at your workplace. Choose from some of their most-requested musicians: Small group string ensemble; Small jazz ensemble; Soloist (e.g. jazz pianist, jazz guitar, cello, harp); other groups available upon request. Additional requirements may include: armless chairs, outlet access.



Next Act Theatre can help you find many kinds of performers for all types of events. From the Boardroom to the Ballroom, they can help you staff an event with clowns, magicians, face painters, jugglers, emcees and so much more. They can also help to bring you testimonials from artists, students and arts administrators on the importance theatre has on their lives.



Carl Storniolo - Pangaea Steel Pan Group

Pangaea is a musical ensemble that specializes in performing music from the Caribbean. Pangaea can bring that special steel pan “island” sound to your workplace with a variety of calypso, reggae, pop, Bossa Nova, jazz and “classical” songs. Pangaea ensemble options: duet (pans and marimba), trio (pans, marimba and bass) or solo (pans with pre-recorded backing tracks). Additional requirements may include: armless chairs, outlet access.

Terry Smirl Jazz Trio

The Terry Smirl Trio has been performing throughout the Midwest for well over 20 years, playing jazz renditions of classic tunes from the Great American Songbook. They specialize in playing very quietly, and their renditions of these tunes work perfectly as background music for cocktails, dinner, mingling, etc. However, they can also “open up” and swing hard for concert settings! The trio consists of piano, upright bass and a small drum kit (they bring a digital keyboard if no piano is available on site), and the trio requires very little floor space. Guitar is available as an optional substitute for the piano. Additional requirements may include: armless chairs, outlet access.

Brew City Blasters

The Brew City Blasters uses standard “Dixieland” or New Orleans band instrumentation: trumpet, clarinet (or soprano saxophone), trombone, piano, bass and drums. Their repertoire consists of classic New Orleans favorites such as *When the Saints Go Marching In*, *Bill Bailey*, *Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?*, *St James Infirmary*, *St Louis Blues*, *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, etc., as well as a growing list of more contemporary jazz titles rooted in Gospel, Blues, etc.

Additional requirements may include: armless chairs, outlet access.



Frogwater

From Celtic to Delta blues, from classical to pop with a healthy dose of unique original material! Bring this rousing musical duo to your workplace to amplify the fun!

Additional requirements may include: armless chairs, outlet access.



Skylight Music Theatre offers an array of talented singer-actors to perform songs from the Broadway musical catalogue. They give compelling testimony about the importance of the arts in our community while entertaining the audience through song.

Additional requirements may include: sound system for recorded accompaniment, mics.

UPAF Affiliate Performances



Above The Clouds brings a small ensemble of students, former students and/or instructors into your workplace to perform a joyful dance, share an impactful story and learn about the many ways Above The Clouds is inspiring children to dream.

Additional requirements may include: sound system for recorded accompaniment, mics.



The Festival City Symphony String Trio is available as background music or a featured performance for many different kinds of events of varied lengths.

Additional requirements include: armless chairs.



Kids From Wisconsin offers a family-friendly, high energy and high-caliber professional performance with the State's most talented youth performers. Each summer the 36 members (22 singer/dancer and 14-piece band) tour Wisconsin and perform every day at the Wisconsin State Fair. For Workplace Giving events, Kids From Wisconsin can provide a multitude of options of 1-8 Singers and/or Instrumentalists. Additional requirements may include: sound system for recorded accompaniment, mics, armless chairs, outlet access.



The **Milwaukee Jazz Institute** was created by dedicated jazz musicians and supporters who have a passion for preserving this music and passing it on for future generations to develop. They collaborate with other organizations that share their vision of how this music can become an even more significant factor in shaping, revitalizing, and improving our city. Milwaukee Jazz Institute hopes to be instrumental in furthering jazz in Milwaukee for many generations to come. Book a Milwaukee Jazz Ensemble to entertain and enliven any setting!



Milwaukee Opera Theatre's mezzo-soprano Emily Fons and collaborative pianist Janna Ernst will transform your workplace into a concert venue with sparkling conversation and breathtaking performances covering a wide range of repertoire, including ballads, musical theatre, jazz and opera.



Salsabrositas is Milwaukee's youngest Latin dance team, established in 2012. These award winning dancers will bring excitement and fun to the workplace with skilled and dynamic salsa solos, duets and small ensembles.



Studio K Flamenco presents music and dance performances featuring traditional Flamenco elements like castanets, fan and the Spanish shawl known as the 'mantón de Manila'. Ensemble performances with live music or solo dance performances are available.

Additional requirements: dressing room, outlet, ample performance space, wood floor is preferable.



Signature Dance Company (SDC) is a Milwaukee-based dance company for women and girls ages 4 and up. The company is comprised of members from the Milwaukee area who feel the need to create a new genre of technique, where creative expression and spirituality explode in an exciting and uplifting style of dance. SDC offers lyrical/contemporary dance pieces which are appropriate for any age group.

Additional requirements: For the safety of the dancers, the performance space dimensions and flooring are subject to the artistic director's approval in advance of the performance date; sound system for recorded accompaniment.



Summit Players Theatre offers energetic, understandable Shakespeare from a trunk. With few actors, basic sets and creative costumes, the Players can come to your space and offer a selection of short, exciting Shakespeare scenes. Summit Players Theatre is adaptable, able to perform in virtually any space from a conference room to a cafeteria and beyond. Enjoy comedy, action, sword fighting and even audience participation with a collection of scenes from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth* and more.



TBEY Arts Center, Inc. students come to your workplace to provide a fun and engaging performance through dance, monologue, music or art demonstration. Students can share their story of impact and how TBEY Arts Center, Inc. has made a positive change in their lives.

Additional requirements: For the safety of the dancers, the performance space dimensions and flooring are subject to the artistic director's approval in advance of the performance date; sound system for recorded accompaniment.



Wisconsin Conservatory of Music teaching artists can provide professional performances for your event, large or small. Solo and small ensemble groups can provide performances or background music, in styles ranging from classical to jazz and popular. (Examples: singer/pianist; small jazz combo; solo cello, etc.)

Additional requirements may include: armless chairs, outlet access.



Xalaat Africa Drum and Dance for Life: African Music

Lecture and demonstration of the Kora (African Harp).

Additional requirements: For the safety of the dancers, the performance space dimensions and flooring are subject to the artistic director's approval in advance of the performance date.

TESTIMONIALS WITH IMPACT:

How the arts change lives!

The performing arts inspire, educate, unite and transform lives everyday - and UPAF's 14 Members have stories of impact to share! Executive Directors, Artistic Directors, Performers, Teaching Artists, Students, Parents and Alumni all have personal experiences that illustrate the power of the arts that will engage and inspire. Upon request, some speakers may be able to provide a performance to accompany their testimonial. All speaker/performer requests are subject to availability. To ensure optimal availability, requests must be made 3-4 weeks prior to the event.

- **Bel Canto Chorus** Kai Simone, *Managing Director*
- **Black Arts MKE** Barbara Wanzo, *Executive Director*; Ashley S. Jordan, *Director of Arts & Cultural Programming*; Rebecca Owen, *Chief Development Officer*; Black Arts MKE Resident Arts Group Member, young performers, parents, alumni.
- **Danceworks** Julieane Cook, *Executive Director*; Jessica Fastabend, *Community Programs Manager*; Christal Wagner, *Co-Artistic Director*; Gina Laurenzi, *Co-Artistic Director*; youth dancers, parents, and alumni.
Danceworks representatives will share how the transformative power of dance, from inspiring live performances and health-promoting studio classes, to outreach programs for underserved students, seniors, and individuals with multiple sclerosis, fosters creativity, wellness, and community connection.
- **First Stage** Daniel Grambow, *Managing Director*; Jeff Frank, *Artistic Director*; young performers, parents, and alumni.
- **Florentine Opera** Maggey Oplinger, *Executive Director*
Arts, business, and community - and how they all matter to each other.
- **Milwaukee Ballet** Michael Pink, *Artistic Director*; Tai Pauls, *Managing Director & Chief Advancement Officer*; Kristin Dimmer, *Director of School & Academy*

- **Milwaukee Chamber Theatre** Brent Hazelton, *Artistic Director*; DiMonte Henning, *Actor*; Elyse Edelman, *Actor*
- **Milwaukee Repertory Theater** Chad Bauman, *Executive Director*; Laura Braza, *Associate Artistic Director*; Chuck Rozewicz, *Chief Development Officer*; Jenny Toutant, *Chief Education and Engagement Officer*; artists, and students.
- **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra** Mark Niehaus, *President & Executive Director*; other staff and musicians available upon request. Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra representatives will share how symphony orchestras fuel local economies, attract new business development, educate young people, and—through the power of music—unite individuals and cultures in times of public celebration and healing.
- **Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra** Linda Edelstein, *CEO, MYSO Alumna*; Carter Simmons, *Artistic and Music Director*; Sabrina Raber, *Community Program Manager, Music Director, MYSO Alumna*; Current MYSO Students - Bring MYSO students into your workplace to learn about the impact of music education - about how your support profoundly changes young lives and our community for the better.
- **Present Music** Eric Segnitz, *Co-Artistic Director*
- **Next Act Theatre** Cody Estle, *Artistic Director*; Libby Amato, *Managing Director*; Senior Staff Members.
- **Renaissance Theaterworks** Lisa Rasmussen, *Managing Director*
- **Skylight Music Theatre** Susan Varela, *Executive Director*; Michael Unger, *Artistic Director*

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS: ***An Unforgettable Arts Experience***

Get first-hand experience of the performing arts by offering a workshop in the workplace! UPAF's Members provide expert teaching artists that will guide sessions in music, dance or theater and inspire connection to the arts while fostering heightened collaboration with coworkers. Upon request, some teaching artists may be able to provide a testimonial to accompany their workshop. All workshop requests are subject to teaching artist availability. To ensure optimal availability, requests must be made 3-4 weeks prior to the event.

Black Arts MKE

Workshops in Spoken Word, Singing, Art Therapy, Dance, Drumming

LENGTH: 15-60 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Danceworks

Take-5

Let Danceworks lead your employees through mindful movement practice including gentle stretching, breathing and guided meditation. Learn how a few minutes can revive your mind and spirit.

LENGTH: 10-20 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Mad Hot Rhythm Lesson

Get up and moving with Mad Hot Rhythm faculty as they lead you through a dance lesson using this year's energizing choreography. Would you like to hear about how arts education impacts our youth? Just ask to book a speaker.

LENGTH: 15-60 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Pick a Style!

Give your employees the gift of movement with an introductory class to a dance style of your choice. Pick from Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Salsa, Tap, Calming Contemporary, Yoga and Barre Workout.

LENGTH: 30-60 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

First Stage

Life Skills through Stage Skills

Ever wonder what it would be like to attend First Stage Academy? Engage employees in your workplace giving campaign as a First Stage Teaching Artist leads them through an interactive workshop. Employees may learn warm up techniques, play improv games and see firsthand the life skills through stage skills taught to young people through the First Stage Academy Program.

LENGTH: 15-45 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Florentine Opera

Meet the Creative Team

Ever wonder how a show gets built? Learn more by talking to the creative teams that design a show (performers, costume/wig designer or set designer)

LENGTH: 15-45 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 50 participants

I'm Ready for my Close-up Mr. DeMille

What do performers do to look so fabulous? Erica Cartledge, Resident Wig & Makeup designer, shows you first-hand the intricacies and delicacies of character transformation and incredible make-up artistry.

LENGTH: 15-45 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: Any size. Transformation is recorded and distributed digitally.

Developing Your Voice

Opera Singers train for years honing their craft, developing their voice and confidence and creating compelling characters. This interactive program will teach you some of the basics of voice necessary to hone your focus and confidence, skills that can translate into your next great workplace presentation or on-stage cameo. Learn some tips and tricks that singers do to warm-up their voices to create those rich and engaging sounds.

LENGTH: 15-45 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre

Twist Your Tongue

Ever wonder what it takes for an actor from Milwaukee to sound like a kid in Brooklyn or a princess in France? Break down sound and learn a dialect with one of Milwaukee's masters of verbal disguise.

LENGTH: 10-60 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Technical Demonstrations and Conversations

Go behind the scenes and learn how our productions come to life! Learn more by talking with guest designers of Rep productions, as well as staff members of Milwaukee Rep's costume, props and scenic shops.

LENGTH: 15-30 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 50 participants

Corporate Theater Training

Milwaukee Rep will lead your team in a workshop using theater to improve communication skills, creative thinking, collaboration and teamwork.

LENGTH: 20 minutes-1 hour, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Next Act

Playwriting

If you're interested in learning how plays are written and want to expand your creative writing skills, join our Education Manager, Pia Russo, as she shows you the first steps in writing your own script. Creating characters, objectives and focusing on voice, you'll walk away with the first page of your very own award-winning play.

LENGTH: 20 minutes-1 hour, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Group Improvisation

Let local actor Doug Jarecki bring some unexpected fun and laughter to your workplace with Next Act's improv workshop. Hilarious and highly interactive games help to create an outstanding team-building experience in the workplace. Absolutely no experience is necessary. Just a willingness to have fun and try something new.

LENGTH: 20 minutes-1 hour, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Scene-Stealing Shakespeare

Add a touch of theatrics to your workplace: Marketing Director A.J. Magoon will come to your location to perform as "Shakespeare" or another Renaissance-England character. Have him praise and motivate your team with sonnets and other poetry or lean into humor with a variety of witty Shakespearean insults and other clever quips. Perfect for golf outing "heckle holes," midday motivation, employee appreciation, trade shows, galas and other events – all the world's a stage, after all!

LENGTH: 20 minutes-1 hour, customizable

CAPACITY: Any size

Stage Combat

If your group is interested in seeing behind the curtain on staged violence, let Next Act Development Manager, Tawnie Thompson, show your team the basics of stage slaps and punches. As interactive as

you'd like, Tawnie can show you how the choreography is done or show your team how to do it themselves.

LENGTH: 20 minutes-1 hour, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Present Music

Deep Listening

In this participatory workshop, Milwaukee composer Lawton Hall will lead participants in a series of collective sound exercises that bridge mindfulness and listening. A protégé of the late American composer Pauline Oliveros, Hall is an expert in her technique of Deep Listening, which she called “a non-verbal creative expression of experience, to be received with embodied understanding, that may bring a sense of well-being.

LENGTH: 30 – 45 minutes, customizable

CAPACITY: 25 participants

Skylight Music Theatre

KidsWrites

This lighthearted virtual presentation highlights the importance of arts education. Members of Skylight’s education department will captivate your imagination as singers perform highlights from KidsWrites, a show with stories and songs written by 3rd - 8th grade students, giving you a sample of the creative minds of Milwaukee’s youth.

LENGTH: 15-30 minutes, customizable