



the **motown** story you've never heard
mark arthur miller
soulsearching

A Unique Performance Opportunity for Your Music Department



OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Your Music Department presents an **interactive student performance experience and Seminar/Q&A** with singer/composer Mark Arthur Miller and his co-arranger, conductor and pianist, Peter Smith.

***Soul Searching* - The Motown story you've never heard!**

Sizzle: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uby_I_Pb8us&t=6s

Do you know who wrote *For Once in My Life*? It wasn't Stevie Wonder!

In his sizzling hot multi-media concert experience, [*Soul Searching*](#), Mark Arthur Miller takes a high-energy dive into the Detroit sound **and the music of his father, Motown hitmaker Ron Miller**, composer of the classic "For Once in My Life" and more iconic



favorites including "A Place in the Sun," "Yester-me, Yester-you, Yester-day," "Heaven Help Us All," "Touch Me in the Morning," "Someday at Christmas," "Don't Burn Down the Bridge" and many more.

Ron, the first white composer at Motown, was personally hired by Motown founder Berry Gordy when Gordy heard Ron playing his original music in a bar room in Chicago. **The show is full of unforgettable songs from Miller's repertoire, as well as additional hits from The Temptations, Smokey Robinson, Otis Redding and more, plus Mark Arthur Miller and Peter Smith originals.**

Now, your music department has the opportunity to participate in an interactive concert experience with Mark Arthur Miller and his co-arranger, conductor and pianist, Peter Smith. Using Peter Smith's orchestrations for a 6-piece band plus two background vocalists, Miller and Smith will conduct and perform with your students in a concert performance of *Soul Searching*.

This experience plays out over the course of 2-3 days (flexible and TBD) including one band rehearsal with vocalists and a separate vocalist rehearsal. Your students will experience what it's like to receive new arrangements and ready themselves for a

performance with limited prep time and rehearsal. They will be playing some of the most rich and beloved music in the contemporary American Songbook. In addition, the music department has the opportunity to attend a **prepared seminar/Q&A** on Ron Miller/Motown with Mark Arthur Miller and Peter Smith:

Ron Miller at Motown and the Genesis of Soul Searching the Show and CD.

COST AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

COST: \$7500.00 plus T&E if applicable.

Includes:

1 full rehearsal with band and vocals

1 separate vocal rehearsal

1 technical/sound check

Loan of music charts and mp3s for student musicians

1 separate event: Seminar and Q&A

Requirements: A full tech rider is included here, plus band configuration below:



Lead Vocals – Mark Arthur Miller

Piano and backing vocals – Peter Smith

Backing Vocals: 2 Student Singers

Guitar – Student Musician

Bass - Student Musician

Trumpet - Student Musician

Saxophone - Student Musician

Drums – Student Musician

Like a music assignment, the students will receive the charts and live mp3s at least a month in advance to learn.

PLEASE NOTE: We are happy to accommodate several players for each instrument. While the working band will remain 5 student musicians and 2 student singers, **the intermission would provide an opportunity to switch out players and singers.** All players and singers would be required to learn music in advance and attend rehearsals.

MEET MARK ARTHUR MILLER AND PETER SMITH

Mark Arthur Miller: Singer/Songwriter, Actor, Director, Educator



Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Jr. Walker and the All Stars, Marvin Gaye...these artists were the soundtrack of Mark Arthur Miller's young life growing up on Chicago's South Side. Raised by his mother and grandparents at 87th and King and separated from his father, songwriter Ron Miller, the family remained in the neighborhood as so-called "white flight" to the suburbs changed it from white to black. A goldmine of cultural experience was the result.

Less than three hundred miles away in Detroit, Ron Miller was writing the kind of music Mark describes as "my DNA." But at that point, estranged from his son for over 10 years, Ron Miller was just a name on the label of a 45rpm record.

Mark and his sister reconnected with the elder Miller and moved to Los Angeles with him when Motown relocated there. A lifelong bond was formed, and through Ron's work Mark frequently found himself in the company of idols Stevie, Smokey, Marvin, Diana and more. Once Ron Miller realized his son's singing talent, he would often have Mark sing demos of his songs.

Mark focused on acting when he moved back to Chicago at age 21. He was a co-founder Reflections Theatre Ensemble there and eventually returning to Los Angeles, he co-founded The Road Theater Company. Mark has appeared in shows from coast to coast including *The Rainmaker*, *Once upon a Mattress*, *Bus Stop*, *The Elephant Man*, *Rhinoceros*, *Tartuffe*, *Medal of Honor Rag*, *Private Wars*, *5th of July*, *Torch Song Trilogy*, *The Woolgatherer*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, *Balm in Gilead*, *Look back in Anger*, *Barefoot in the Park*, among others. He has appeared in numerous television shows and films. Music, however, has always had the #1 place in his heart. He began performing in popular venues including Rockwell Table and Stage, The Federal, The Cinegrill, and Catalina Jazz, L.A.'s premiere jazz venue. In New York, he has performed at The Triad and GreenRoom42. Mark has received, without exception, RAVE reviews.

Mark's album, SOUL SEARCHING, has found its way onto playlists on radio all over the world. Naturally, it features some Ron Miller hits as well as originals by Mark Arthur Miller and other classic Motown songs.

Peter Smith: Pianist, Composer, Arranger, Songwriter, and Music Director, Educator



An accomplished pianist, composer, arranger, songwriter, and music director, and his career has flourished on both coasts. Originally a New Yorker, Peter has lived in Los Angeles since 2005.

Recent projects include the release of his latest jazz trio recording, “Dollar Dreams,” as well as a series of video releases from the “Highland Park House Band.”

Peter was an associate Music Director for both seasons of ***The Four*** on Fox and the associate Music Director on ***Duets***, the hit singing competition show on ABC. working directly with Kelly Clarkson, Jennifer Nettles, Robin Thicke and John Legend, accompanying them and their contestants in rehearsal, and collaborating with them on the musical arrangements for the show. His compositions can be heard on numerous TV shows (*Mindy Project*, *CSI*, *Bones*, *Arrow*, *Bojack-Horseman*, *Young Sheldon*, *Benched*, *Supergirl*, *Growing Up Fisher*, *Black Lightning*, *Pitch*, *Charmed*, *How to Live With Your Parents*) as well as in the films *Hotel Noir*, *Myth of Fingerprints*, and *Bleached*. He has been traveling the world as **Molly Ringwald**’s pianist/MD, serving as co-producer and arranger on her Concord Records release: Except Sometimes.

Peter is music director for Ty Taylor’s project: The Nouveau Mid Century Romance Songbook, which debuted at the Wallis in LA. Peter is co-producer /collaborator (with Rob Perkins and Ty Taylor) as well as pianist and arranger for the album of the same title, which will be released by Universal Music Group.

In 2009, Peter released his debut jazz album: Here It Comes, which featured a mix of original material and standard repertoire. He followed it up with an ambitious live project: Blues At Alvas.

Peter Smith attended Columbia University, and was a DJ at the acclaimed radio station at WKCR, where he interviewed many of the great pianists in New York and attended the “Jazz University” of historian Phil Schaap.

An accomplished actor as well, Peter’s career has brought him many roles on the small screen in shows like *Law and Order*, *24*, *Scandal*, *Weeds*, *CSI*, and many more. Peter has also performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Regional stages. Combining his experiences in acting and music, he has written a screenplay about jazz pianist Bill Evans during his time with Miles Davis. The script, *Blue in Green*, has received much acclaim in the industry and is inching its way towards production.

SOUL SEARCHING REVIEW EXCERPTS

(link to full reviews where available)

NYC

I love this guy! Thursday night in NYC I saw charismatic blue-eyed soul and Motown singer Mark Arthur Miller's show *Soul Searching*. I highly recommend this show and the album of the same name.

James Gavin, Biographer of George Michael, Chet Baker, Lena Horne and Peggy Lee

He sang the songs with so much passion and feeling it was like you were hearing the songs in a confessional. Absolutely breathtaking.

Donna Herman, [The Front Row Center](#)

We went wild! The music was so compelling that I and the woman sitting next to me agreed that we should join the stage as additional backups!

Steve Nardoni, [Theater Pizzazz](#)

From the moment the star appears from the back of the house—jive dancing in a shiny grey suit that all but screams Motown—all arrows point to the Motor City. This is a show filled top to bottom with soul, from the son's exploration of self to the meaning of the Motown soul ethic to the seriously soulful set list of Motown standards and hits.

Marilyn Lester, [Nitelife Exchange](#)

Mark Arthur Miller hit the stage at [The Green Room 42](#) with sensational exuberance and sizzling delight. He is in his element as a dancer, singer, and showman. The show, appropriately named, "Soul Searching" dips deep into your heart and soul with some of the best music ever created. Nature or nurture. Mark Arthur Miller seems to have gotten both in spades. This music is timeless.

Holli Harms, [The Front Row Center](#)

Los Angeles

[Mark Arthur Miller] possesses a sexy, rugged masculinity, stylish dance moves, and an exquisite, textured and distinctive singing voice. If the theme of this show was "Soul Searching," I think Miller has found the "soul" he was searching for, on so many levels.

Clifford Bell, Cabaret Scenes

Link to full review: <http://tinyurl.com/Cabaret-Scenes-Clifford-Bell>

Though centered around a loving, spirited tribute to the personal and musical legacy of his dad, legendary Motown songwriter Ron Miller, Mark Arthur Miller's vibrant show is just as much a magical, grooving homage to an era of classic pop and soul that continues to capture our hearts and linger in the imagination. Miller's charisma coupled

with fresh, exciting arrangements and lively pacing make this show one for the ages. A truly brilliant showcase from an artist we need to see and hear more of.

Jonathan Widran, Author and Music Journalist,

Miller's velvety smooth voice called forth the images in sight and sound of greats like Eddie Kendrix of The Temptations, Otis Redding, Smokey Robinson as well as the female stars like Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight and Diana Ross.

Don Grigware, Broadway World

Mark Arthur Miller's *Soul Searching* could easily be a movie or a Broadway experience. He spins soul seamlessly.

B. Trout, Music Connection

Album review:

This is a mighty dose of blue-eyed soul you won't forget.

Midwest Record Review of Soul Searching LP

Booking and Contact Information:

Management and Publicity: Betsyann Faiella, SavoyPR

bafaiella@savoypr.com

Phone: 310.283.2415

Mark Arthur Miller:

Marksings@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 818.437.8090

Tech requirements for **SOUL SEARCHING**

Lead vocal: 1 Sennheiser/Shure/Neumann wireless vocal microphone, PSM (Personal monitor system) for in ear monitors, or 3 stage monitors for vocals, 3, 32" Bar Stools. 2 straight mic stands.

Piano/MD: Steinway B piano/ Yamaha C7 (Or equivalent) tuned the day of performance. Nord stage 73 / Nord electric 61/Korg Kronos 61/ Yamaha motif XF6, 1 Sennheiser/Shure/Neumann wireless vocal microphone, 1 Boom mic stand. 1 Stage monitor

Background singers: 2 Sennheiser/Shure/Neumann wireless vocal microphone, PSM (Personal monitor system) for in ear monitors, or 1 stage monitor for vocals, 2, 32" Bar Stools, 2 straight mic stands

Guitar: Fender Deluxe reverb guitar amp (or equivalent), 1, 32" Bar Stool, 1 stage monitor

Electric Bass: Ampeg, Aguilar or Markbass Amp, 1 stage monitor (Shared with drums), 1, 32" Bar Stool

Drums: YAMAHA DRUMS - (maple custom - phx - absolute hybrid)
- (Or equivalent drum set)

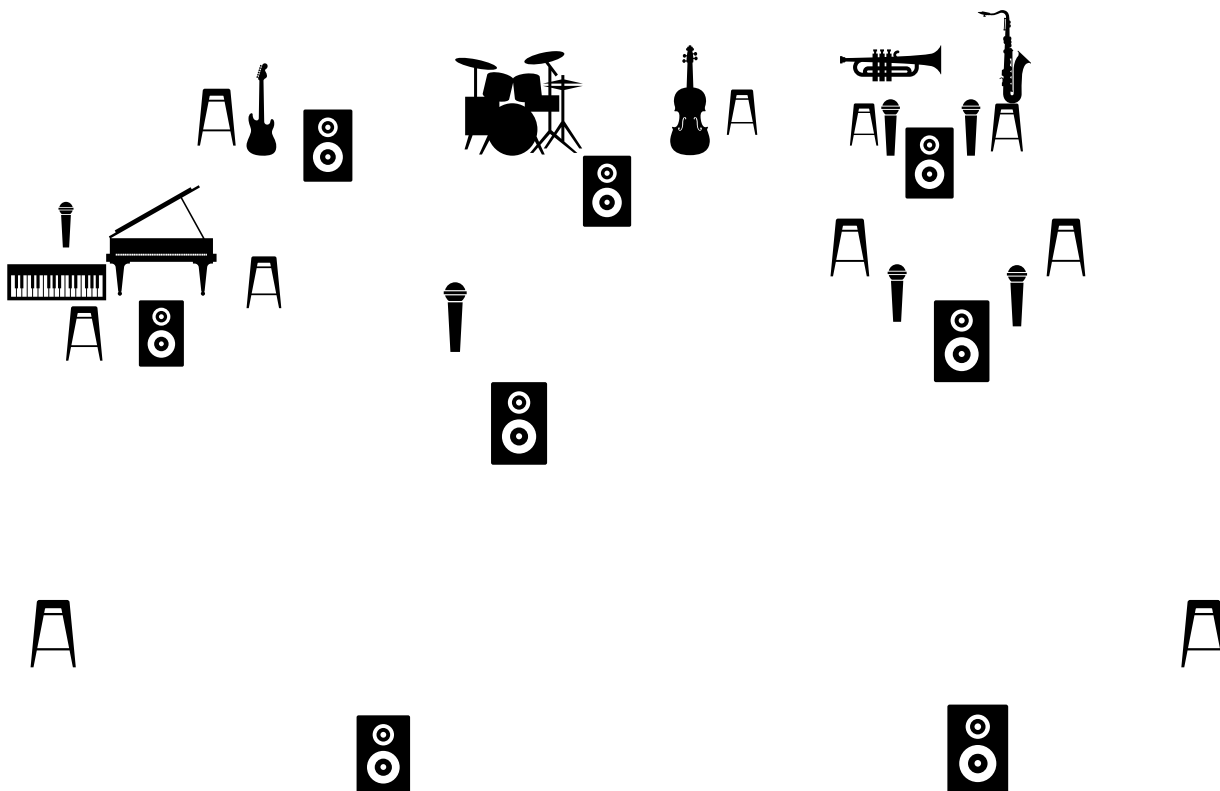
- Evans EMAD head on kick.
Evans G2 clear on toms
Evans HD Coated Or G2 Coated on snares
- 20" kick
- 10" tom
- 12" tom
- 14" floor tom
- 16" floor Tom
- 14"x8" snare
- 14"x6" snare
-
- 7 boom cymbal stands

Tech requirements for **SOUL SEARCHING**

- 2 snare stands
- 1 hihat stand
-
- 1 kick pedal (yamaha)
- 1 roc n soc drum throne
-
- 1 mounted tambourine
- 1 trap table

Trumpet: 1 mic & 1 straight mic stand, 1 stage monitor (shared w/
Sax)Saxophone: 1 mic & 1 straight mic stand,

PROJECTION SCREEN



Tech requirements for **SOUL SEARCHING**

Lighting and Projection Requirements: Venue should have ability to plug in a(n Apple) laptop and project stills and onto a screen. **Production provides a HDMI Plug to go into venue's projection equipment**, Please provide exact equipment in-house and the size of screen and throw distance from the source of projection.

Stage lighting: A lighting design and cues will be sent upon booking, with suggestions based on the venues capabilities

Labor Requirements: One (1) House "Stage Manager" One (1) Lighting Operator One (1) Audio Operator One (1) Projection Operator (or the lighting operator or stage manager can handle projections)

Sound-check/ Tech Rehearsal: A 2-3 hour sound-check/rehearsal is required prior to the show, and to be concluded at least 90 minutes prior to curtain. Lead and background vocals can be in ear monitors or stage monitors depending on venues equipment and capabilities.

Performers will go "cue to cue" with the lighting, projection and audio operators prior to show as needed, to insure that the lighting cues, the projections are all in place and running smoothly.

Backstage Requirements:

1) dressing rooms

One large dressing room or two small dressing rooms are required and should have cold/hot water sinks, shower(s), and be furnished in a comfortable fashion. Hand towels should be provided in the dressing rooms.

2) green room

Venue should provide a green room or additional dressing room with comfortable seating and enough surface space for performers to eat meals, relax, etc.

3) food/refreshments

Venue should provide several bottles of water, or filtered water and glasses. Performers require a bottle of water each onstage during the show. Tea/coffee (herbal and black tea) should be provided back stage with sugar, honey and whole milk, as well as a fruit plate and light snacks, nuts, etc (no cheese).

Tech requirements for **SOUL SEARCHING**

4) **meals**

Dinner should be provided immediately after sound check, and no less than 90 minutes prior to curtain. If dinner is catered, please provide a no-cheese/cream option.