

Brenda Crow McConahay a Clarinda native will be returning to Clarinda on November 23rd to perform at the 20th Annual Clarinda Sings Concert along with two female vocalists. Brenda is the Director and Accompanist for the group B & B Cabaret Singers. Brenda has been a pianist most of her life and currently is the Pianist for New Hope Methodist Church in Des Moines. She has played for nine different theaters in the Des Moines area and has accompanied over 40 different musicals. She also plays for weddings, birthdays, and other special events. Of course, Brenda got her start while accompanying soloists and groups at the Clarinda High School under the direction of her father, Nelson Crow.

The two Des Moines vocalists performing duets are Preshia Paulding and Claire McConahay. Preshia has performed on nearly every stage in the Des Moines area. This past summer she portrayed Marion in Music Man at the Urbandale Community Theatre. Prior to that she portrayed Golda in Fiddler on the Roof at the Des Moines Community Playhouse, where just this past year she was voted Best Actress in a Musical. She is also known for her portrayal of Judy Garland in two different theatre productions and at community celebrations. Preshia is also active in commercial work so you may have seen her in Hy-Vee or Iowa Lottery advertisements.

Claire McConahay was born in Clarinda and is the daughter of Richard McConahay and Brenda McConahay. Claire moved as a first grader to Des Moines, but through the years was a frequent visitor of her grandparents, Nelson and Virginia Crow. Claire was active in musical and dance groups in high school and performed in musicals at Roosevelt High School, Ingersoll Dinner Theatre, Des Moines Playhouse, and Stage West. She recently moved back to Des Moines from Chattanooga, Tennessee and became a member of the B & B Cabaret Singers.

The three members of the group met while performing at the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre. The Cabaret Singers have been performing the past eleven years with their original performance at the Iowa State Fair where they continue to perform annually. The focus of their music has been Broadway music, though they have expanded to include other repertoire occasionally. For the Clarinda performance, both secular and holiday music will be included in their presentation. Selections included will be from Miss Saigon, Forty-Second Street, White Christmas, and a new arrangement of Silent Night.

The Clarinda Sings Concert will take place on Sunday, November 23rd at 3:00 PM in the Clarinda High School Auditorium. Tickets are on sale at the Clarinda Foundation Office which is located at 114 East Washington Street. For more information or to reserve tickets by phone, please call the Foundation Office at 542-4412.