

# CeCe Gable

## Performs on Stage as She does in Life, with Plenty of Style

By Connie McMullen

**S**inger, songwriter, actress, teacher - CeCe Gable is captivating as she performs some of the greatest songs of all time, classics from the American Songbook for those who love good music.

A familiar voice around town over the past 16-years, CeCe has developed a true following as one of the premiere singers of our region. With a focus on jazz standards, it is not uncommon to catch her performing at a local venue or casino show-room, engaging audiences of all ages with her personality and vocal appeal. In short – CeCe is widely entertaining!

Relaxed and savvy on stage, CeCe did not always sing professionally and it is even more difficult to comprehend that she was once inhibited about using her voice to sing. Having moved to Nevada 25 years ago to work in the Artist in Residence Program in Dance, CeCe was encouraged to sing by local professionals. “I didn’t know I had it in me to be a vocalist,” she reflects. “That is why it is so liberating and joyful to sing now.”

Growing up in Ohio, she was a serious student learning trumpet and piano, and had her first experience

singing in the church choir. But singing was put on hold while she worked to obtain degrees in sociology and special education, eventually graduating from Kent State University to work as a residential counselor at the Austine School for the Deaf in Brattleboro, Vermont. Earning a teaching certification from Dartmouth College, she sharpened her skills to work with children of all ages.

Today at 60, CeCe enjoys being a performing artist and educator, where she teaches privately in “The Children’s Studio” a small group of children ages 7-17 who are aspiring and serious students of the performing arts. “Every person has a different approach to playing music or learning how to sing. It’s exciting to me to see how everything unfolds for the student. Performing as a vocalist with jazz musicians has the same appeal for me. The music evolves as you go along when everyone is listening to each other; it can be very new



and exciting.”

Those experiences have enabled her to interpret music on a personal level touching a similar cord in all of us. “I sing the music because I love it,” she explained. “It is the American Songbook that has to be preserved because it is what it is...beautiful music. People have wonderful memories of the songs, when times were maybe better for them and happier. It’s a tradition and I believe in it.”

This March, 2011, CeCe will

be performing in concert in Akron, Ohio under the auspices of the Women’s Studies Month, which is also the opening of the Jazz Festival at the University of Akron. Looking back on her life to share experiences for those who want to know how she happened to become a jazz singer, CeCe says “I guess I’m inspired by the song, “I’ll Make It Up As I Go.””

So what are CeCe’s most endeared tunes? “One of my favorite songs is “Little Did I Dream” written by Dave Frishberg and Johnny Mandel. It was given to me



Performing at Senior Fest 2010, (left) pictured is Joe McKenna, bassist; Chuck Hughes, drummer; CeCe Gable; Corky Bennet, jazz accordionist; and Rocky Tatarelli, saxophonist.

by Dave when I met him at a Tahoe party where he was giving a private concert. The song has special meaning because Dave gave it to me and the lyrics are so meaningful to so many people. The title, though, is what gets me since I never dreamt that I would have a singing career that has offered me so many opportunities."

"Other songs that I really enjoy are "Twilight World" by Johnny Mercer and Marian McPartland, and one that Corky Bennett and I co-wrote called "Once Again It's Winter," both of which are on my latest CD which is available at [www.cecegable.com](http://www.cecegable.com)."

Readers can also catch a performance locally as CeCe tries to keep one regular weekly gig in Reno. "That keeps me in shape for con-

certs," she said. "My goal is to give concerts once a month and travel with my Musical Director."

CeCe performs Fridays at Vivoli Cafe & Trattoria, located at 6795 S. Virginia, Suite H, in Reno. Reservations are highly recommended and can be made by calling 775-853-1005.

CeCe co-produced her first CD "You Are Not Alone" with world renowned jazz guitarist, composer and arranger, Akio Sasajima in 2002. Her next CD "For You" in 2006 was a collaborative effort with pianist/vocalist, Kenn Pettiford, and included original music and standards. "Once I Loved" is CeCe's third CD again co-produced with Akio Sasajima in 2009, and includes top notch international bassist from New

York, Harvie S and one of Reno's best talents, drummer/percussionist, Andy Heglund.

In her personal time she can be found with husband, Clay Alder. "He is my biggest supporter and promoter," CeCe explained. "His enthusiasm is infectious and I've made many new friends and fans through his efforts. He and his brother Jim have great voices, and I'm always encouraging them to take their vocal gifts seriously."

To contact CeCe for a local performance, log on to [www.cecegable.com/contact.html](http://www.cecegable.com/contact.html). For voice lessons or vocal coaching, an audition is required for serious disciplined students.

**Sidebar**  
Recently CeCe Gable performed at the 14th annual

Senior Fest, at Reno Town Mall, shown here. The band members pictured are:

Corky Bennett, Reno's only jazz accordionist, has spent 50 of his years in show business as a musician and comedian. He is also CeCe Gable's manager.

Rocky Tatarelli, saxophonist extraordinaire, originally from Detroit, has a long history of playing with jazz greats.

Chuck Hughes, drummer, is currently the drummer of choice for Patty Page.

Joe McKenna, bassist, has played with well-known jazz and cabaret performers, and locally in many of the casino shows such as "Smoky Joe's Cafe" and "Shake Rattle and Roll."