



Ms. Ida Mae McBeth

November 28, 1952 - March 1, 2023

Obituary

Ida Mae McBeth was born on November 28, 1952, to the parents of Jessie and Elvira Williams. She was the fourth child out of five. She attended the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools and graduated from Wyandotte High School in 1971.

She was baptized at an early age at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church by Rev. O.A. Crenshaw. By the age of five Ida knew she wanted to be a singer. She began singing in the church choir and would often go with her brother, Henry Briscoe when he preached, and she would sing.

She was provided early exposure to a variety of talented vocalist by her mother. These singers included such greats as Nancy Wilson, Arthur Prysock, Nat King Cole, Bill Withers, Gladys Knight and Sarah Vaughan.

As a child, Ida took an active part in the music program of her church along with school choirs and dance bands. Her professional singing career began at the age of 16. After graduating from high school, however, Ida was undecided about a career in music, so she enrolled at Kansas University to study nursing.

In 1972, Ida's desire to be a singer outweighed any previous doubts about a

career as a musician. She followed her aspirations and left college to join Dick Halligan (“Blood, Sweat & Tears”) and soon recorded her first album in Los Angeles.

Ida moved to California in 1973, allotting herself six months to attain her goals. Within four weeks of her arrival, she was booked to sing six nights a week at a nightclub in Bel Air.

Over the years, Ida McBeth has received many honors and awards. In 1984, she was named by the Kansas City-based International Jazz Hall of Fame as both “Best Female Jazz Vocalist” and “Entertainer of the Year.” In 1990 Kansas City Mayor Richard Berkeley awarded her a special proclamation designating April 27, 1990 as “Ida McBeth’s 20th Anniversary Day.” And also in 1990, Ida was named as one of Kansas City’s “People of the Year” by Ingram’s Magazine,

Bronze Sidewalk Medallion Award Honoree, American Jazz Museum Walk of Fame, Kansas City, MO, 2017, Lifetime Achievement Award, American Jazz Museum, Kansas City, MO., 2016, “Most Favorite Kansas Citizen”, The Kansas City/Lawrence Area Music Awards 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, “Best of Kansas City: Entertainment & Culture”, The Note, KC Pitch, 1990-1996 “One of 100 Most Influential African-Americans”, KC Globe, 1992 One of Kansas City’s “People of the Year”, Ingram’s Magazine, 1990, “Ida McBeth’s 20th Anniversary Day: April 26, 1990”, Kansas City Mayor Richard Berkeley, “A Uniquely Kansas City Entertainer Award”, The Squire, 1988 “Best Female Jazz Vocalist”, “Entertainer of the Year”, Kansas City International Jazz Hall of Fame, 1984.

Most recently, Ida’s outstanding achievements have included performing the national anthem for the presidential nomination of Al Gore at the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, Kansas City’s birthday bash

at Arrowhead Stadium with Kenny Rodgers and Walter Cronkite, as well as performing at the Smithsonian Institute in 2001. Ida was Crowned Queen of the Kansas City, Kansas Blues Street Festival for 2005 and given the key to the city. And she was voted "Best of R&B / Soul" in the Pitch Readers Poll for both 2004 and 2005.

Never one to rest on her laurels, Ida McBeth gives much of her time and talent to various charities and community services. She has worked with the American Cancer Society, the Nova Center for autistic children, and the Stop Violence Coalition, and the American Diabetes Association to name but a few.

After, some 30 + years and several albums later, the critics still laud the talents of Ida McBeth. The New York Times applauded her "technique, taste and sass... her precise intuition, guts and raw confidence." And Ida's lithesome vocals continue to embrace the subtleties of jazz, pop, blues and soul, both in her home base of Kansas City and on the road.

Ida's dynamic and magical style is like a light that shines brightly in the world of music, a light that grows constantly brighter with the passage of time. Ida McBeth is still known as song stylist extraordinaire.

Ida passed away on the morning of March 1, 2023, after an extended illness.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother; husband, Roy Searcy, brothers, Henry Briscoe and Cleveland McBeth.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories: one son, Jason Searcy of Kansas City, MO; brother, Ronnie (Connie) Williams of Long Beach, CA, sister, Estella Taylor, St. Joseph, MO, sisters-in-law, Bulah Briscoe, Kansas City, KS and Regina McBeth, Kansas City, KS, along with a host of nieces,

nephews, cousins and many, many, many friends in the Jazz community and across the United States and the world.

A Celebration of Life followed by a Jam Session will be held on Sat, March 11, 2023, from 1 pm - 4 pm at the historic Gem Theatre located at 1615 E 19th Street KCMO in the historic 18th & Vine district.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, March 13, 2023, 11:00am at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church 2310 East Linwood Blvd. KCMO. Interment: Highland Park Cemetery, KCK. Visitation will be from 10 am - 11 am at the church. Service conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared our website.

All monetary donations can be sent to Wyandotte West P.O. Box 9094, 1310 N. 78th Terrace KC KS 66112- 9498.

To send flowers
to the family or plant a tree
in memory of Ms. Ida Mae McBeth, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)

Tribute Wall

DG

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Ms. Ida Mae McBeth by Darcus Gates. Plant a TreeDarcus Gates

Darcus Gates - May 25, 2023 at 10:54 AM

JC

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Ms. Ida Mae McBeth by John and Oleta Cushon. Plant a TreeOur deepest sympathy goes out to the family. Our love for Ida is everlasting.John and Oleta Cushon

John and Oleta Cushon - May 25, 2023 at 10:54 AM

AM

“ Beautiful in blue was purchased for the family of Ms. Ida Mae McBeth by American Jazz Museum . Send FlowersTo the family, may Idas light, golden voice, and loving memory be a comfort to us all in her journey to the afterlife. We are so thankful for her contribution to the legacy of Kansas City music.American Jazz Museum

American Jazz Museum - May 25, 2023 at 10:54 AM

DM

“ We LoVe U Sis, Newman and Mozee Family
Daphne and Tyszu Mozee

Daphne and Tyszu Mozee - March 12, 2023 at 10:31 PM

JY

“*Ida, my dear friend I will miss you so much. My heart is hurting, but I know you are at rest. I love you my friend and I know we will meet again.*

Joyce Young - March 11, 2023 at 06:28 PM

JY

“*Ida, my dear friend I will miss you so much. My heart is hurting, but I know you are at rest. I love you my friend and I know we will meet again. Your Bestie*

Joyce Young - March 11, 2023 at 06:26 PM

JC

“*I worked at the Point back in the eighties and had many great conversations with Ida. I loved working when she performed and enjoyed every song she sang. What a privilege. I especially loved " Noah Get the Boat Ready". Godspeed Ida. May you rest and play in peace with the angels. Prayers and sympathy to Ida's family and friends.*

Julie Churchman-Burns - March 11, 2023 at 12:16 PM

DS

“*Ida was a one of a kind lady. Whenever she and I would run into each other we would stop and talk about things going on in our lives. Most importantly, our sons, who are both autistic, and named Jason. The thing, I admired most about Ms. Ida, she was never pretentious. She was down-to-earth and so easy to talk too. A rarity for someone of her stature. I will miss those run-ins with her . Thank you. Ms Ida, for sharing a small part of your world with us! Rest and eternal Heavenly peace.*

DeLana Jean Smith Sattarin and Jason Elliott-Alexander Smith.

DeLana Sattarin - March 10, 2023 at 03:59 PM

AJ

“ Letter of Condolence 2 Timothy 4:7-8 King James Version (KJV) 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. “Earth has no sorrow that heaven can’t heal” To The family of Ms. Ida Mae Mc Beth I send my deepest sympathy in this difficult time. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt, but also a good friend to everyone. Ms. Ida was a good person in her own special way, she share a lot of love to everyone she came in contact. She enjoyed life, she was definitely a blessings to everyone always, which she was truly called a friend in deed, she always lived her life to the fullest, with she had in her. She began singing in the church choir and would go often with her brother, when he preached, and she would sing. At the age of 5, she knew she wanted be a singer. She was provided early exposure to a variety of talented vocalist by her mother. At the age of 16, she began her professional singing career. After leaving college, she joined Dick Halligan, and recorded her first album in LA (Los Angeles). She was well known for Jazz, pop, blues, and soul, both in her home base of Kansas City, and on the road. She was truly a legend, “Best Female Jazz Vocalist. Truly an Icon. She transition home to glory, she definitely will be missed to all who knew her. My thoughts, and prayers are with, her son, siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins, her sisters-in-law, and the rest of the whole family, and friends. “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” (Psalm 30: 5) Rest In Peace Ms. Ida, you’re now resting in the arms of Jesus. May God bless, and keep this family in perfect peace. Sincerely, Bro. Anthony Clark Jr. A member of (GPT) Greater Pentecostal Temple, under the leadership of Bishop Dr. Marvin E. Donaldson

Anthony Clark Jr. - March 09, 2023 at 06:55 PM

GC

“ We shared some good times. I will miss you. Sorry for the suffering you had over the last few years. Rest. You are safe now. Safe in His arms. Love you.

Gladys Cleaver - March 08, 2023 at 10:47 PM

GC

“ We shared some good times. I know you suffered so much the last few years. Rest. You are safe now. Safe in His arms. Love you

Gladys Cleaver - March 08, 2023 at 10:42 PM

GC

“ We had some good times together. Sorry for the suffering you went through. Rest now in His arms. Love you

Gladys Cleaver - March 08, 2023 at 10:29 PM

GM

“ You fought a good fight IdaMae. I'll be seeing you again soon. Until then keep 'em laughing in Heaven. Love to my nephew Jason, and "Ronnie's home"..Ida loved you two to the moon.Gatsby Melodi

Gatsby Melodi - March 07, 2023 at 11:51 PM

MJ

“ My first friend in the third grade. Dunbar North Elementary..1959. Had just come up from Arkansas! Thank you Ida🐻🕶️ Maurasteen "Maura" Dobbs James

Maura James - March 07, 2023 at 07:35 PM

TK

“ *Ida, with a smile of pure delight, had her halo on tight, spread her wings and SANG her way thru the gates to take her place amongst Heaven's lights. Oh peace be still*

The Thibodo Family/Kansas City, KS - March 07, 2023 at 05:42 PM

MK

“ *Your Voice and presentation will never be forgotten. I saw you live at Top of Crown Center back when Live music was still going on there. RIP.*

Martha Kapsemalis - March 06, 2023 at 06:33 PM

JS

“ *To Ida's family,*

I am a classmate of Ida's in the Class of '71 at Wyandotte. I regret that I did not know her in school and that I never had the privilege of seeing her in concert. However, I have heard a lot about what a beautiful and wonderful performer she was. I pray that God will be with all of you in the days, weeks, and months to come.

Judy Larson Southard - March 02, 2023 at 07:19 PM