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## Margaret Garrett to present faculty cabaret at Ouachita Jan. 31

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OUACHITA  
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NEWS

For immediate release

**Margaret Garrett to present faculty cabaret at Ouachita Jan. 31**

By Brooke Zimny

January 13, 2017

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ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Dr. Margaret Garrett, associate professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University, will present a faculty cabaret, “Everything Changes,” on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m. The performance, which is free and open to the public, will be held in Mabee Fine Arts Center’s McBeth Recital Hall on Ouachita’s campus.

“This cabaret performance has been the product of my sabbatical last fall. In it, I share honest autobiographical stories of my experience as a mother, a daughter and a wife,” Garrett noted. “I hope that by keeping it real others who have had similar experiences will realize they’re not alone and will be able to look back at the past and find out there’s more to laugh about than they thought.”

The cabaret was co-written by actress Kelli Barrett, Garrett’s cabaret coach. John Alec Briggs, adjunct lecturer in music at Ouachita, serves as music director for the show and will perform as Garrett’s collaborative pianist.

Selections that will be performed include several musical theatre pieces and Disney favorites, a “Rock Star Mom Medley” and “Love Song Mash Up” as well as popular hits “Yellow” by Coldplay and “Count on Me” by Bruno Mars, the hymn “I’d Rather Have Jesus” by George Beverly Shea and Anita Renfroe’s “The Mom Song,” set to the tune of Gioacchino Rossini’s “William Tell Overture.”

Musical theatre and Disney selections include: David Shire’s “I Want It All” and “The Ladies Singing Their Song” from *Baby*, Stephen Sondheim’s “I Remember” from *Evening Primrose* and “Children Will Listen” from *Into the Woods*, Alan Menken’s “Mother Knows Best” from *Tangled*, William Finn’s “Anytime (I Am There)” from *Elegies*, Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez’ “Let It Go” from *Frozen* and Sara Bareilles’ “Everything Changes” from *Waitress*.

**Dr. Margaret Garrett**, associate professor of music, joined the Ouachita music faculty in 2008. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in voice performance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, a Master of Music degree in voice performance from Indiana University-Bloomington and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice performance from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as high school concentrations in voice and harp from Baltimore School for the Arts. Garrett has won the Kentucky National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Artist Awards competition and has received the NATS Young Leaders Award. She is a member of NATS, National Opera Association, Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity, Arkadelphia Philharmonic Club and the Musical Theatre Educators’ Alliance.

Garrett has presented recitals in Arkansas and surrounding states and has performed as an oratorio soloist in Handel’s *Messiah*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Fauré’s *Requiem*, Haydn’s *Creation*, Brahms’ *German Requiem*, Bach’s *Magnificat* and Vivaldi’s *Gloria*. As an orchestral soloist, she has performed Mozart’s *Exsultate, jubilate*, Glière’s *Concerto for Coloratura Soprano and Orchestra* and Ligeti’s *Mysteries of the Macabre*. She has been a featured artist with Opera in Concert in Dallas, Texas; other opera credits include the title role in *Little Red Riding Hood*, Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, Sandrina

in *La Finta Giardiniera*, Laurie in *The Tender Land* and Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the world premiere of *Rendezvous with Destiny*. She also has performed with the Kentucky Opera, Piedmont Opera, Opera Carolina and the Indiana University Opera Theater. Her musical theatre credits include *My Fair Lady*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Grease*.

**John Alec Briggs**, adjunct lecturer in music, joined the Ouachita faculty in 2011. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from Ouachita and currently is completing graduate studies in voice pedagogy at Westminster Choir College. He also earned a Master of Architecture degree from Tulane University. He conceived and performed three solo cabaret shows that ran for several years in New York City, all of which were selected as “must-see shows of the week” by *Time Out New York*. He has served as organist and choirmaster at New York’s historic Saint George Episcopal Church and Saint Brigid Catholic Church and currently serves in that role at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church in Little Rock, Ark. Briggs’ scenic design credits include the Broadway and national tour productions of *Jekyll & Hyde* and New York productions of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Lizzie Borden*, *Rex* and *Brothers of the Knight*, as well as television specials *Gala for the President at Ford’s Theatre*, *The Daytime Emmy Awards* and *The Miss America Pageant*.

**Kelli Barrett**, a Virginia Beach, Va., native, now lives and works in New York City, acting both on stage and film. In addition to serving as Garrett’s coach and co-writer, she has taught Ouachita students through the Amy Murphy Studio NYC Professional Intensive. Barrett and her husband, Tony-nominated Jarrod Spector, collaborate in their cabaret on marriage, “This Is Dedicated: Music’s Greatest Marriages.” Barrett currently is filming the TV series *The Blacklist: Redemption*; other television credits include appearances on *BrainDead*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Blue Bloods*, *NCIS* and *Chicago Fire*. Film credits include *Zarra’s Law*, *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* and *The Switch*. On Broadway, she recently originated the leading role of Lara in *Doctor Zhivago* and has performed in *Baby It’s You!*, *The Royal Family* and *Wicked* and originated the role of Sherrie in *Rock of Ages* Off-Broadway. She studied musical theatre at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pa.

For more information, contact Dr. Margaret Garrett at [garrettm@obu.edu](mailto:garrettm@obu.edu) or (870) 245-5271.

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