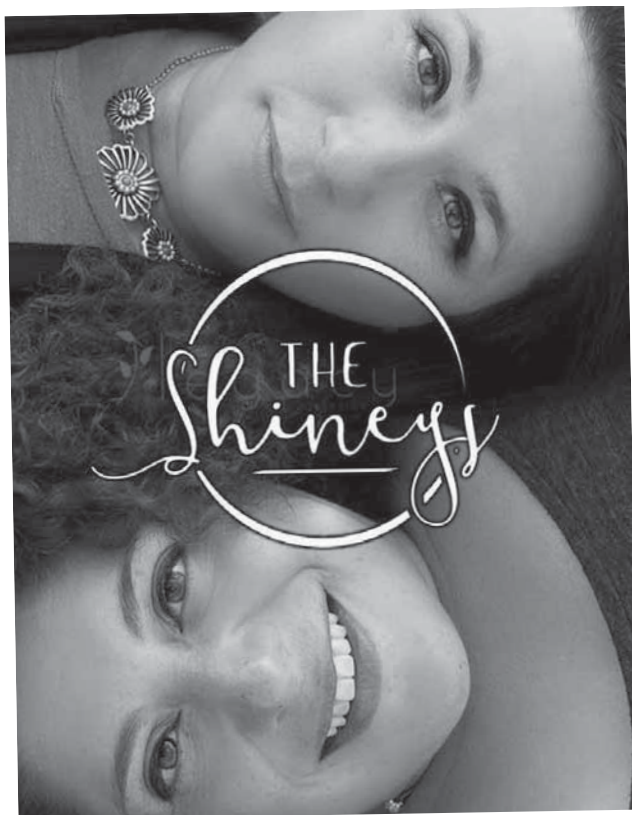


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friends from Doane University decided to put some other life experiences behind them and jump start a new life with a brighter outlook.

Tica Felise and Carrie Ann Buchanan had both gone through divorces, Felise explained. "And you know, we kind of need(ed) to find that shine again," she said. "Good girl friends get together and we commiserate . . . the way we choose to commiserate is we make music."

So, The Shineys were born.

Farmers' markets around Omaha saw their first performances followed by a move to open mic nights.

Buchanan, from Alliance, moved to Houston after college for a costume design internship and became part of that city's music scene for nearly two decades. In 2004 she formed Carrie Ann and The Apocalyptics, releasing an album called Strong Wind through Montrose Records in 2008. Buchanan plays guitar, sings, and writes. On Nov. 4 she released an EP Bones! that she recorded two years ago in Austin, Texas.

Denver native Felise, who sings, plays ukulele, and writes, had an online release Tuesday of an EP she recorded with her old Colorado band Proprio.

They have yet to record together – something that is expected to change in the next 12 months, but The Shineys were nominated in the "Best Singer-Songwriter" category for the 2015-16 Omaha Arts & Entertainment Awards.

The Shineys— Musical Breakout Waiting to Happen By Andy Roberts

For now there are just two of them.

Most of the time.

But maybe not forever.

And they feature a ukulele.

The Shineys have been around for a couple years, ever since two old

Felise hinted that their lineup may not be set in stone.

"Just us right now," she said. "But we have had other people join, but they're not in the fold."

Those others include Emily Ward who recently was profiled in these pages.

Their music, as their lineup, seems subject to change.

"It does have some Americana in it," Felise said. "We also do blues and pop."

"Our style is kind of indie rock with those influences. Country, pop, and blues . . . and folk."

She paused before adding: "I don't know there's not anything (that isn't) in there,"

A song they are working on, "War Pigs," was described as punk in flavor.

Felise said: "A nice big winery," would be the ideal venue for The Shineys. "Wineries kind of tend to want music you can listen to that sounds pleasing."

People can listen to the music or not, she said, but most of the time audiences do.

"They put their little conversations down and listen to it," Felise said.

Bars, she added, do not always provide the most attentive audience. "Mostly

like the staff and the bar owners."

The Shineys are not a dance band, Felise agreed.

"No, no," she said. "Not to say that we've never had any dancers."

The Shineys have been playing "A lot of places" including in Benson at the Barley Street Tavern, downtown at the Harney Street Tavern, and on Leavenworth at the Down Under. They also play in Southwest Iowa, including a "pretty regular" gig at Waubonsie Station, a Tabor, Iowa, restaurant, plus The Barrel in Council Bluffs.

Felise said she and Buchanan are looking forward to increased visibility during the coming year.

"We're definitely starting to dial in a marketing effort," she said. They have had a logo designed (by Emily Ward) and a website is going up for the duo. Their recent releases, albeit of older material, are just the beginning.

"We both have these projects that we're hanging out over our head," Felise said. "Now we can concentrate on being The Shineys."

The plan is for 2018 to include, not only some recording, but also videos, and those may not be the only changes in the works.

"I think (we would like) to add more depth to the band as we can find



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appropriate players, ourselves included,” Felise said. Both ladies know how to play piano and mandolin in addition to their primary instruments.

Felise and Buchanan have day jobs but are interested in performing outside the Omaha area and have been asked to play in Kansas City and once traveled to Arizona. A Colorado homecoming for Felise also may be in the future for The Shineys.

It seems a promising start, as Felise pointed out the two are great friends and trust each other so much, making music together is easy. Their voices also harmonize well, and often that surprises the audience.

“We have pretty loud power-house voices,” Felise said. “People are not expecting that.”



For more on The Shineys
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