**I Am Beth Manke**

**I am excited and proud**

I wonder what an impact I make on the students that stand nervously on stage with me

I hear crystal clear voices in rich harmony whenever I hear music

I see the smiling faces in the crowd waiting excitedly for the show to begin

I want my students to feel proud of themselves and their notes to fill up the auditorium

**I am excited and proud**

I pretend to be on Broadway in NYC performing up on the enormous stage

I feel nervous that someone will scamper onto stage at the wrong time

I touch the final program folded neatly in my lap

I worry that the audience will not roar with laughter at the jokes or sway to the beat of the songs

I cry when I hear the lead sing out their last note and let the notes rise from their heart

**I am excited and proud**

I understand that everyone performed from their heart

I say that I will direct musicals for as long as I am a teacher

I dream that one day one of my students will be a shining star on Broadway

I try to hold back the hot and salty tears, but some slowly spill down my cheek

I hope that the show makes audience members want to sing, dance, cry and smile

**I am excited and proud**

**I Am Beth Manke**