

# Garten's Music

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May 2015

## WMA student plays organ, piano

► Teen enjoys pop, rock, country & classical - & she plays sacred music at Mass

Natalie Brant is an uncommon 13-year-old girl: She plays piano and organ. In fact, she plays the organ for Mass every Friday at her Catholic school.

“I can do almost whatever I want on the piano, but with the organ I do mostly church songs,” Brant said. “I love both.”

Her family has a piano at home, and Brant’s interest in music was sparked when she was a child.

“My grandparents had an organ and we’d always mess around with it,” she said.

Brant began taking piano lessons in fourth grade.

“My best friend started learning,” she recalled. “She didn’t go very far, but that’s



Natalie Brant

why I started learning.”

Brant also started taking organ lessons when she was a fifth-grader from her church’s organist. She said many think the instruments are basically the same, but she described the piano and organ as “very different.”

After her piano instructor stopped teaching, Brant even-

tually enrolled in lessons at the Wichita Music Academy. She recently celebrated her one-year anniversary as a student at the academy, where she enjoys studying with Su Kheng Kang.

“I like her a lot,” Brant said. “I’ve learned a lot. None of my other teachers did theory, and I never played scales until I had her.”

Brant listens to a variety of music – pop, rock, country and classical.

“I’ll learn any of them,” she added. “I like the pop ones the most. Everybody knows them.”

Kang said Brant was a good student.

“She is an outgoing student,” Kang continued. “She has her own goal and she works hard toward the goal. She is

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Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Easy Favorites)! Front row, from left: LE Anderson, Liz Hicks, Polly McGreevy. Back row, from left: Shane Hutchinson, Gene Krehbiel. Not pictured: Max Stuever, Brent Kleeman.



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 2)! Front row, from left: Jeanette Salone, Edna Tomlin, Joan Mies. Back row, from left: Karen O'Loughlin, Brenda Mareda. Not pictured: Jay Mills, Sherrel Canterbury.

## *Graduation day!*

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always passionate about learning new music.”

Brant played “Let It Go” from the movie “Frozen” at the Wichita Music Academy’s Student Showcase in the fall.

Brant is now working on “Moonlight Sonata.”

“I want to be exactly like my teachers and be able to play anything,” she said.

**CHECK OUT OUR  
MEMORIAL DAY  
SALE!**

It lasts throughout the month of May!



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Deluxe)! Front row, from left: Wanda Shaw, Vesta Campbell, Nancy Wiard. Middle row, from left: Sue Maurer, Brent Kleeman, Evelyn Whitmer, Dee Cheatham. Back row, from left: Bill Hall, Joyce O'Dell, Bill Sullivan. Not pictured: Carl Bierdeman, Phyllis Carr, Priscilla Liddeke, Betty Neugebauer.



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 1)! Front row, from left: Cynthia Peitz, Lynne Gable, Deborah Torset, Jack Cassell, Jim Gregory. Back row, from left, Margaret Short, Tina Baldwin, Pam Armstrong, Farol McMillan, Betty Peitz.

## Welcome to new and returning students who signed up for lessons and classes!

Alexis A.	Jack C.	Roberta S.
Tyson J.	Marion C.	Karen O.
Rhianna K.	Shane H.	Jeanette S.
Diamond L.	Brent K.	Leo H.
Izabelle R.	Liz H.	Brenda M.
Michael L.	Gene K.	Brian W.
Connie U.	Polly M.	Rex A.
Maxine M.	Lynne G.	Jacob D.
Tina B.	John L.	Zachary R.
LE A.	Velda L.	

# Mark your calendars!

## Upcoming classes and gatherings at Garten's Music:

### L.I.F.E. in Kansas MusicMakers

Join the club and enjoy making music with us!

– 2 p.m. Friday, May 1

### PlayTime

is an opportunity for current and former Lowrey students to enjoy listening to and playing for your friends!

– 2 p.m. Friday, May 8

### Organ Club

includes a Name That Tune game, playing tips, new songbooks and great music!

– 2 p.m. Friday, May 15  
(Theme: Flowers)

### Garten's Music and the Wichita Music Academy

will be closed for Memorial Day.

– Monday, May 25

Lowrey Magic  
10-week classes:

### Red Book 2 Class

– starts at 10:30 a.m.  
Thursday, June 4

Summer "Music Camp"  
Classes will cover a playing technique & instrument feature each week.

(for Lowrey Magic Red Book 2, 3 or 4 graduates)

– starts at 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 16

(for Lowrey Magic Blue or Green Book graduates)

– starts at 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, June 17

Congratulations to our monthly drawing winner for March! Kim Jones won our "pick your prize" drawing, which was named in honor of basketball brackets that many of us fill out!

Congratulations to Linda Kreutzer, who saw comedian Brian Regan's show at The Cotillion in April! She won two tickets to the event during our drawing at the Women's Fair.

# 'Music's everything in my life'

► Wichita Music Academy instructor began teaching guitar in high school

Les Clark loves teaching students to play guitar and ukulele. He wants them to enjoy the benefits that he discovered making music.

"Music's helped me out a billion times. You get sad, you write a song, you know?" he said. "Also, to see somebody grow is kind of cool. The most selfish thing about teaching is it makes me a better player because I have to do it right."

He likes a variety of music, and he's willing to learn songs that students bring to Garten's Music, home of the Wichita Music Academy.

"If I don't know it, I'll learn it," Clark said. "I have no problem doing that."

Clark decided when he was a child that he wanted to be a singer like Meat Loaf. Then he saw "La Bamba," the movie about Ritchie Valens, and that sparked a desire to learn guitar.

Clark received a Yamaha junior guitar when he was 7, but he didn't play it much. When he saw the movie, he began pursuing his interest. Clark's family moved when he was 11, and a boy at school shared his passion for music.

"He said, 'We should be in a band.' But we never were," Clark



Les Clark strikes a pose.

recalled.

He explained that the boy thought he was a good guitarist, which he described as funny.

"All I knew were three chords," Clark admitted.

He received an electric guitar for Christmas that year, and he began writing his own songs.

"I loved it," he said. "I played guitar all the time. I would play my guitar from the time I got home until dinner and then after dinner until bedtime."

Clark also took piano lessons and played saxophone in his school band. In high school, he played guitar in a hard-rock band and then he was a member of a death-

metal band.

"We played one show – thank God," he said with a grin.

As an adult, Clark played "in a more melodic metal band," he said, for eight years.

Clark began teaching guitar when he was in high school. His first student was one of his friends.

"His mom paid me 10 bucks a week," Clark remarked

Clark later became a guitar tech for a band called Ralphie; it was named after the character in "A Christmas Story." Now he works full time for Apple and enjoys music as a singer, songwriter and

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# Great Mother's Day idea!

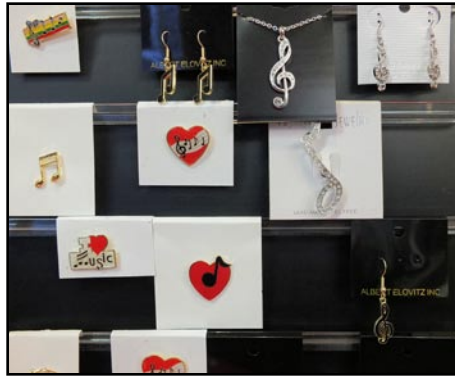


Garten's features gift items, songbooks, music accessories and gift certificates for a class!



Give Mom the present that lasts a lifetime: music!

Call or stop by today!



Les Clark clowns around in one of the lesson studios at the Wichita Music Academy.

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guitarist. Nirvana was Clark's favorite band as he grew up, but his eclectic taste ranges from Pantera to Tiny Tim to Eric Clapton and Cream.

He also appreciates blues musicians such as Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray

Vaughan. Clark said his girlfriend loves music from the 1980s, so he hears plenty of that. Of the current artists, Sam Smith is among his favorites.

"Music's everything in my life," Clark said.

## Reaching a milestone



Congratulations to Aidan Wherrell, who is celebrating his one-year anniversary at the Wichita Music Academy! He is a violinist studying with Roni Worcester.

Wichita Music Academy students receive a \$20 gift certificate for every new student they refer to the academy!

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