

Garten's Music

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October 2014

“Never too late to start”: Student writes poetry, composes music for his lyrics

Roy Beckemeyer has always been a writer, but he didn't seriously pursue his hobby until retirement.

Beckemeyer wrote poems to his high school girlfriend, Pat, who is now his wife. He figured that meant he was a successful writer, so when he retired from Boeing, he enrolled in a writing class and joined a writing group.

He pursued another interest that started in his youth: making music. Beckemeyer became a jazz aficionado in high school, and he wanted to better understand the music and learn how to improvise. He joined the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class for adult beginners at Garten's Music.

“I always kind of regretted that I never had any music lessons,” he said.

When Beckemeyer completed the class, he enrolled in



Roy Beckemeyer takes piano lessons and studies music composition.

weekly lessons through the Wichita Music Academy at Garten's Music. He takes a 30-minute lesson for piano and a 30-minute lesson for composition. He wrote lyrics in addition to poetry, and he wanted to create music to go with his lyrics.

“It's never too late to start,” he said of a new hobby.

“You should start as soon as possible.”

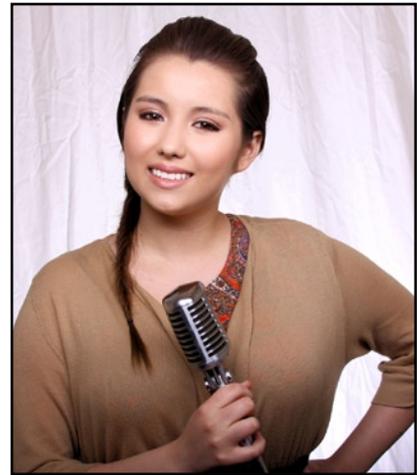
Beckemeyer worked for about six months with the Wichita Music Academy's Meme Overholt, who was named Composer of the Year by the Kansas Music Teachers Association in 2008.

“She got me through a lot of the basics, a little bit about harmony and about melody, different rhythms,” Beckemeyer said.

His first lesson with Overholt inspired a poem titled “Music Composition 101.”

“We talked about the shape of a melody on the staff line,” he recalled. “That kind of stuck in my mind, and I went back and thought about some of the jazz songs that I really like ... and thought about what the melody line might look like.”

Beckemeyer now works
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Congratulations to students who reached their one-year anniversaries at the Wichita Music Academy! Clockwise from top left: Vicky Is liefson, piano student of Su Kheng Kang; Colin Tran, guitar student of Billy Bloomquist; Kaliagh Galicia, voice student of Adam Willingham; Christian Goss, guitar student of Bloomquist; and Thomas Reeves, violin student of Cortland Mahoney. Not pictured: Stephen Nguyen, guitar student of Glenn Swindler.

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with another instructor, Billy Bloomquist, who plays various instruments and has performance experience.

“Billy has a lot of experience at playing, composing, improvising,” Beckemeyer said, “so what he brought was a different approach – a little more aimed at jazz in particular, and the other was how improvisation is

tied in with what you do to compose.”

A collection of Beckemeyer’s poems, including “Music Composition 101,” has been published. The book, titled “Music I Once Could Dance To,” is available for sale at Garten’s Music. Beckemeyer dedicated the book to his wife.

He has enjoyed his hobbies

in retirement, which he described as “a nice change from engineering.” However, he said, he discovered some similarities when he learned the basics of music and how it’s constructed.

“It’s so much fun,” Beckemeyer said. “It enriches your life very much. Even if you never become a wonderful pianist, you learn more about it and play tunes for your own benefit.”

Mark your calendars!

Upcoming classes and gatherings at Garten's Music:

Goofin' Around Keyboard Class

for adult beginners teaches students to have a blast goofin' around at the keyboard! The 10-week class affords students the chance to learn to play in a fun, no-stress (and no recital) environment. We'll even loan you an instrument!

FREE introductory classes:

- 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 2
- 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 3

Upcoming Lowrey
Magic classes:

Red Book 1

- 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 9

Red Book 3

- 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2

PlayTime

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

- 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10

Organ Club

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

- 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17
(Theme: Songs with a person's name in the title)

L.I.F.E. in Kansas MusicMakers

Join the club and enjoy making music with us.

- 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3



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

Linda H.	Phyllis C.	Dan A.
Polly M.	Bill H.	Abigail W.
Karen O.	Dee C.	Vesta C.
Jeanette S.	Red K.	Nancy W.
Edna T.	Betty N.	John B.
Arnetta J.	Wanda S.	Sue M.
Dennis V.	Evelyn W.	Joe P.
Betty W.	Todd L.	Brady J.
Rahel M.	Gavin K.	



Get ready for the
**Lowrey Christmas
Cantata!**

First
ever in
Wichita!

This two-day event
features concerts,
workshops and
more from Lowrey's
Brad Bryan and
Dennis Awe!



Brad Bryan

Lunch
will be
provided!



Dennis Awe

10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 29
& Thursday, Oct. 30

Call today for
more information!





Fall for a Kawai!

For **September only**, Kawai is offering customers an **instant rebate** on selected acoustic and digital pianos. Rebates range from \$150 to \$1,000, depending on which instrument is purchased. Hurry in today to take advantage of this offer! 



Going to Goddard

The Goddard school district purchased a pair of Kawai CP139 digital pianos from Garten's Music. We're honored to be part of the U.S.D. 265 music program. Congratulations to the students and teachers on their new instruments!

The Wichita Music Academy offers piano, keyboard, guitar, bass, voice, ukulele, dobro, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, saxophone, violin, viola, djembe and cajon lessons!

Call or stop by today & begin your musical journey!



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