

Garten's Music

4235 W. Central • Wichita, KS • 67212
942-1337 • 1-800-795-1331
www.gartensmusic.com
www.wichitamusicacademy.com



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Uke student embraces creativity

Grace Francis used to play the piano, but she has fallen in love with the ukulele. She has some advice for aspiring musicians.

“Pick an instrument that really reflects you and your characteristics and what you really like,” she said.

Francis, 9, takes ukulele lessons through the Wichita Music Academy at Garten's Music. She has been a stu-

dent for almost a year and a half.

“I thought it would be fun to get a uke,” she said. “I got it for Christmas and my dad signed me up for lessons. That's the only stringed instrument that would fit me. Guitar's too big. And I also really like stringed instruments.”

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Grace Francis

Longtime bass player joins WMA

Jim Keefer is a familiar name to musicians and fans alike in the Wichita area.

He plays in six bands, and he has released two CDs. He has performed at various events such as the Wichita River Festival and Wichita Blues Crawl, and now he has joined the Wichita Music Academy at Garten's Music.

Keefer teaches bass guitar and upright bass. He has been a freelance bassist for 50 years, and he has taught students for 10 years.

“I am excited and eager to bring my love and enthusiasm for playing the bass to a new, young group of future bassists,” he said.

Keefer started his musical

journey playing trombone, euphonium and tuba. He began playing upright bass when he was 14. He gravitated toward the music of jazz legends Miles Davis and Dave Brubeck.

Keefer served in the U.S. Army in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when he learned

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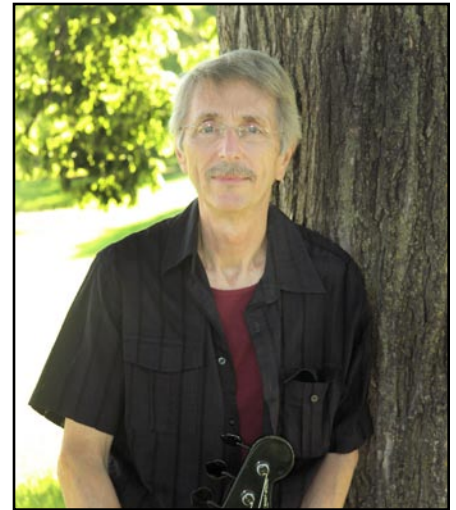


Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 1)! From left: Larry McCurry, Maxine Mikesell, Mary Taylor, Clara DeHaven, Daniel Perez.

Graduation day!



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 3)! From left: Shane Hutchinson, Brent Kleeman, Gene Krehbiel, Lynne Gable, Liz Hicks. Not pictured: LE Anderson, Polly McGreevy.



Jim Keefer

► **"Bass"**
Continued from front page.

to play the Fender electric bass. He worked with Randy Goodrum, a well-known songwriter, in a group called Jazz Disciples. Keefer also played for many official events, including the Dean Martin "Golddiggers Revue" with comedian Alan King.

Keefer performs in the bands Crosstown Traffic, Nouveau Quintette, Delano Jazz Orchestra, The Boomers, Jim Vega Band and the Keefer Madness blues band. He also plays for church worship services.

"There can never be too many bass players!" he said.

See our booth ...
at Asian Festival
Saturday, Oct. 24,
at Century II in Wichita!

'Marquee' event

Lowrey artist Dennis Awe visited Wichita in September for the unveiling of the Lowrey Marquee at Garten's Music!

Awe provided two concerts for Garten's students and showed the many features of one of Lowrey's newest products.

At right: Red Kimball, left, poses with Awe after purchasing the Marquee.

Bottom right: Wanda Shaw, left, and Evelyn Whitmer also are the proud owners of new Marquees.



Continued.



Mark your calendars!

Upcoming classes and gatherings at Garten's Music:

PlayTime

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

– 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9

Organ Club

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

– 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16
(Theme: Jazz/R&B)

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 class:

– 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13

2 big days with Lowrey!

Lowrey artists Dennis Awe and Brad Bryan will provide a Fall Music Camp. It will last from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 28 and 29, at Wyndham Garden Hotel, 221 E. Kellogg, Wichita. Call 942-1337 to register by Oct. 12!

L.I.F.E. in Kansas MusicMakers

Join the club and enjoy making music with us! It's time for our annual election of officers.

– 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Summer Campfire)! Front row, from left: Connie Gonzalez, Virginia Hosey, Evelyn Whitmer, Dee Cheatham. Middle row: Nancy Wiard, Connie Profaizer, Priscilla Liddeke. Back row: Bill Hall, Phyllis Carr, Wanda Shaw, Joyce O'Dell.

A multitalented writer

Roy Beckemeyer, a student at the Wichita Music Academy, is making a name for himself as a writer.



Roy Beckemeyer

He studies piano and composition with instructor Adam Willingham, and he's a poet as well. Beckemeyer's book, "Music I Once Could Dance To," was named a Kansas Notable Book. He received the award at the Kansas Book Festival in

September.

Beckemeyer was featured in The Active Age and now teaches a poetry writing workshop for LifeVentures.

The Wichita Music Academy offers instruction in piano, keyboard, guitar, bass, voice, ukulele, tuba, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, flute, clarinet, violin, viola and baritone/euphonium!

Call today to reserve your spot ... before the time and day you want are taken!

Congratulations to Pam Lamborn, who won our monthly drawing in August! She received a \$25 gift certificate for music or instruction books.

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

Leslie R.
Gracie B.
Selah B.
Bryson J.
Richard M.
Ruth F.
Bill H.
Brent K.
Joyce O.
Evelyn W.
Connie G.
Cheryl P.
Connie P.
Polly M.
Sally W.
Floyd H.

Nichadha P.
Melanie S.
Eric T.
LE A.
Vesta C.
Phyllis C.
Red K.
Priscilla L.
Wanda S.
Liz H.
Marissa F.
Tina B.
Marion C.
Merl H.
Edna T.
Ty S.

► "Ukulele" Continued from front page.

Francis studies with Matt Kuzma, and they performed at the student concert in the spring. They played a duet titled "Grace's Song."

"I made up the chords and he helped me a bit on the melody," Francis said.

"Grace is really enthusiastic about playing the ukulele," said Kuzma. "She is fun to work with because she plays

a lot between lessons and wants to learn to play more challenging pieces.

"Grace has a lot of energy around creating her own songs as well as exploring new rhythmic interpretations of existing tunes," he added.

Francis likes classical music, but she's willing to work on any song.

"Even if I don't know it, I'll learn it," she remarked.