



Garten's Music

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April 2015

'The best decision I ever made'

► Student's confidence grows through Goofin' Around Keyboard Class

Connie Gonzalez always wanted to play piano, but when she arrived at Garten's Music for the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class, she felt a little intimidated by the instruments.

"I thought, 'I don't know if I'll ever be able to play these,'" she recalled. "But after the first lesson and the second lesson and the third lesson, I thought, 'I think I like this!'"

As her confidence grew, she began feeling more comfortable playing in front of people. She has joined Cindy Houston, president of Garten's Music, to tell groups about the classes – and she plays songs for them. Gonzalez has performed for church groups, at senior centers and at the Women's Fair in the Garten's Music booth.



Connie Gonzalez started making music in 2009. She enjoys playing all types of music.

She has grown to enjoy playing all types of music. Latin, gospel and jazz are among her favorites.

"And I'm starting to like country," she said.

Gonzalez first enrolled in the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class in 2009. She was retired, and she said the timing was just right.

"If I didn't have this to come

to, I don't know what I'd do," she said. "I enjoy it. It's something that came up when I needed something to do."

Gonzalez is also active in Organ Club and the L.I.F.E. in Kansas MusicMakers at Garten's.

"I like playing if they ask me," she said with a chuckle.

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Graduation day!



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (3-chord Country)! Seated, from left: Roberta Stafford, Joyce O'Dell, Connie Gonzalez. Standing, from left: Bill Hall, Laurie DeGarmo, Carl Bierdeman.



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (3-chord Country)! From left: Donna Clasen, Lynette Hasz, Floyd Hansen.

Hoops fun



March is known for basketball, and Garten's celebrated by offering discounts on items for those who made a free throw or 3-pointer!

The Wichita Music Academy offers piano, keyboard, guitar, bass, voice, ukulele, dobro, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, saxophone, tuba, trombone, trumpet, cello, clarinet, flute, violin, viola and baritone/euphonium lessons!

Call or stop by & learn more!

Reaching a milestone



Congratulations to our students for celebrating their one-year anniversaries at the Wichita Music Academy!

Above left, Isabel Santiago is a pianist studying with Su Kheng Kang. Above right, Breeleigh Jones is a pianist studying with Adam Willingham, Brynelyn Jones is a pianist and guitarist studying with Robby Avila and Matt Kuzma, and Bryson Jones is a guitarist studying with Kuzma. Below left, Jade Quintanar is a pianist studying with Willingham. Below right, Natalie Brant is a pianist studying with Kang.



Wichita Music Academy
Student Showcases are set for
3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday,
May 2, at Garten's Music.

Musician loves teaching students

Robby Avila began playing music as a fifth-grade band student. Since his mother played saxophone, he decided to take up the same instrument.

“I loved it right away,” he said. “My dad had always listened to old jazz albums, so I had a good background early on.”

Avila’s grandfather played trumpet in a jazz band. Perhaps because of his family background, Avila enjoyed experimenting with different instruments.

“I would always take home other instruments to see if I could get them to play,” he said.

Avila now plays saxophone, piano, flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, euphonium and tuba. He decided in high school that he wanted to be a band teacher “because my band director was so amazing.” He described her as a friend, mentor and sometimes even a parent for her students.

However, after he began pursuing his bachelor’s degree in music performance at Kansas State University, he started teaching private students and liked that better than directing bands.

“I could do one-on-one lessons with students and get the same results,” he said.



Robby Avila and his family have a passion for jazz.

Avila, who teaches through the Wichita Music Academy at Garten’s Music, doesn’t regret his decision not to lead school bands.

“I wouldn’t have as much fun as I have doing private lessons,” he said.

Avila is working on his master’s degree in saxophone performance at Wichita State. He enjoys helping out when the university hosts middle school band day and when high school students who are prospective music majors visit the campus.

Avila owns numerous instruments, including his grandfather’s trum-

pet from the 1920s. Avila teaches a variety of music genres, but his personal favorite is jazz music from the 1940s to the 1970s. He also likes “horn bands,” he said, such as Chicago and Blood, Sweat & Tears.

Avila loves teaching because it affords him the chance to see students make the same mistakes he made in the past and then he can help them fix it.

“It’s just really rewarding to be able to give them something I might not have had,” he said. “Instead of seeing children frustrated by what they can’t do, they’re elated by what they can do.”



Like us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/gartensmusic

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 class:

– 1 p.m. Thursday,
April 16

L.I.F.E. in Kansas MusicMakers

Join the club and enjoy making music with us!

– 2 p.m. Friday, April 3

PlayTime

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

– 2 p.m. Friday, April 10

Organ Club

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

– 2 p.m. Friday, April 17
(Theme: Musicals)

Lowrey Magic
10-week classes:

Red Book 2 Class

– starts at 1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 14

Easy Favorites Theme Class

– starts at 2 p.m.
Wednesday, April 22

Continuing Virtual Orchestra Songbook Classes

(for Fanfare & Inspire
owners & dreamers)
– 3 p.m. Thursdays

(for owners of all classic
and EZ models)
– 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays

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Gonzalez, who owns a Lowrey Regency, said she had met several nice people through those organizations. She also supports the L.I.F.E. group's designated charity, Wounded Warriors.

When Gonzalez had relatives in town recently, she played a few songs for them at home. She said the family members, including her husband, compliment-

ed her as a musician. She is proud of her progress over the past six years, and she recently enrolled in the Virtual Orchestra class so she can continue to learn more.

"I saw the ad in the paper and decided to come down here," Gonzalez said. "It's the best decision I ever made."

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

Roberta S.
Bill H.
Connie G.
Brent K.
Brenda M.
Vesta C.
Carl B.
Phyllis C.
Priscilla L.
Nancy W.

Wanda S.
Donna C.
Joyce O.
Lynette H.
Connie P.
Dee C.
Evelyn W.
Lydea D.
Kathy P.
Eric M.

Yvonne C.
Becky K.
Eva B.
Kerrie P.
Karen S.
Peggy H.
Linda B.
Mickey E.
Danya B.