



# Garten's Music

4235 W. Central • Wichita, KS • 67212  
942-1337 • [www.gartensmusic.com](http://www.gartensmusic.com)  
[www.wichitamusicacademy.com](http://www.wichitamusicacademy.com)



October 2019

## 'We just have a good time learning'

### In retirement, man fulfills long-held dream of playing keyboard

When Benjamin Breese-Isley recently retired, he knew he didn't want to sit at home all the time. He always had a desire to learn to play piano or keyboard, and although he tried a couple of times, he said it didn't stick.

When he saw a Facebook post about the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class for adult beginners, he was intrigued.

"I don't know why it popped up on Facebook," he said. "I was so glad it did. I am beyond enjoying this."

Although it was no secret among his friends and family that Benjamin wanted to play the keys, he felt nervous when he first entered Garten's Music to start the class.

"You walk in, you feel like family," he said. "I appreciate that. What a relief."



Benjamin Breese-Isley

Soon after, his skepticism about learning to play melted away.

"Cindy just calmed every nerve," he recalled. "When I took the book home and was able to play it, it was amazing. I thought, 'I can do this!'"

Benjamin finished the Lowrey Magic Red Book 1 class and is now a member of the Broadway's Best theme class. He owns a Lowrey EZ3.

"I sit at the keyboard, and I can forget about everything," he said. "It's just me and the music and my Chihuahua. I can relax and just enjoy the music and know I'm learning something at an older age. Not that I'm old – you can teach a dog new tricks!"

Music wasn't entirely foreign to Benjamin. He comes from a musical family, he said, and he loves to sing as a mem-

►Continued on Page 2.

# Graduation day!



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Hallelujah theme class)! Front row, from left: Connie Profaizer, Marsha Helmer, Joyce O'Dell, Aleta Vogt. Back row, from left: Gary Miley, Brent Kleeman, Bill Hall, Millie Tallman, Wanda Shaw.

## ► Continued from Page 1.

ber of the Heart of America Chorus. He discovered that learning more about music through the keyboard class also helped him as a vocalist.

“I’m using this ability, what I’m learning here, there as well,” he said.

Benjamin’s favorite song he has learned to play so far is Johnny Cash’s “I Walk the Line.” He prefers gospel and country music, although he appreciates the variety that students learn in the Goofin’

Around Keyboard Class.

“It’s fun to become friends with them,” he said. “We’re starting to bond. There’s a lot of camaraderie there. There’s no judgment.”

Benjamin’s goal is to play piano or keyboard for church. He pointed out that throughout the Bible, scriptures talk about how music helps people. That’s true for him, he said, since he has arthritis and it’s “absolutely” beneficial to move his hands and fingers as

he plays the keyboard.

He would advise anyone feeling hesitant to try the first class. It’s a minimal commitment of 10 weeks, and he thought of it as “baby steps” at first. He has no regrets.

“Cindy and Mark, they’re excellent,” he said of the teachers. “We laugh – we just have a good time learning. They take the concern away from you – somehow they just have a magic. If you can read, you can do this.”

# Mark your calendars!

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

### Organ Club

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

– 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18  
(Theme: Sun, moon & stars)

### Organ Club Christmas Party

has a new location! It will be at Venue 3130, with lunch catered by Spear's.

– 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20

### Halloween party

Lowrey artist Chuck Wright will join us at Venue 3130!

The event will last from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Halloween at 3130 W. Central.

### Spotlight on Lowrey EZ10+

– 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 1,  
at Garten's

### Spotlight on Lowrey Journey

– 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1,  
at Garten's

### Fall Class:

### Lowrey Magic theme class (Flower Power)

– starts at 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, Oct. 16



## *Never too late to learn music!*



Garten's Music had a booth at the annual Senior Expo! We were located at the Wichita Art Museum, where we promoted the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class!

### Feelin' festive:

The annual Festival of Trees will be Friday, Nov. 15, through Sunday, Nov. 17, AND Friday, Nov. 22, through Sunday, Nov. 24! Admission will be \$5 at Midian Shrine, 130 N. Topeka in Wichita. More details coming soon!

# WMA students earn recognition

Wichita Music Academy students recently received their trophies, wristbands and certificates for achieving musical milestones. We are proud of them! See more photos, Page 5.



Aidan A.



Anabelle A.



Teagan P.



Sasha L.



Sophia L.



Carley B.



Gannon E.



Ariisa C.



Bo M.



Harper R.



Rooks R.



Kavar W.



Finn R.



William L.



Joyce V., right,  
and teacher Toby



Alivia F.



Mickey G.



Gary F. and  
granddaughter  
Alexandria B.



Freddie C. and instructor  
Les



Siblings Erin and Isaac L.



Orion I.

### Save the date!

The Winter Student Showcases for the Wichita Music Academy will be Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8!

## Wichita Music Academy News

Congratulations to Mary Halsig, who wrote and performed in the play “Mead’s Corner Capers” at Roxy’s Downtown! She teaches piano, voice and guitar at the Wichita Music Academy.

Congratulations to Emily Mudra, who earned a spot in the Seattle Cascades for Drum Corps International! She spent the summer touring more than 18 U.S. states with fellow brass players plus percussionists and dancers. She teaches trumpet and trombone at the Wichita Music Academy.

Congratulations to Leah Rosales, who gave world premieres for two pieces, worked with their composers and performed while attending two music festivals this summer. She spent two weeks in Cortona, Italy, and eight weeks in Brevard, N.C. She teaches violin, viola and piano at the Wichita Music Academy.

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

Rand R.	Ellie H.
Andrea V.	Cindy W.
Emma R.	Aaron H.
Summer K.	Kerrie P.
Connie G.	Linda O.
Rasri K.	Penny R.
Liz H.	Carolyn J.
Karen A.	Mary S.
Gaye D.	Mary R.
Kathleen S.	Joan D.
Janet G.	Pat T.
Benjamin B.	Larry J.
Rilla R.	Joan W.
LaJuan H.	Gayla S.
Gaither W.	Sheryl K.
Fred C.	Eva O.
Judy C.	Gerri A.
Debra H.	Casey O.
Lisa S.	Wanda S.
Fred W.	Brent K.
Rosie B.	Joyce O.
Noel G.	Millie T.
Galen F.	Aleta V.
Judy F.	Connie P.
Helon S.	Bill H.
Beverly C.	Gary M.
Marsha H.	Sue M.
Bobbi B.	

**Congratulations to Carly Peckman, who won our monthly drawing for September! She received a Roland bag, baseball cap and pen.**



# Six win grand prizes

Our 50th anniversary celebration last month culminated in a drawing for grand prizes!

The winners and their

prizes were Sarah Rivers, keyboard; Jennifer Lewis, acoustic guitar; Brad Painchaud, electric guitar and mini-amp; Kristen Jacobs,

soprano ukulele; Jennifer Guermonprez, concert ukulele; and Letha Hill, djembe. Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us!



*They're creepy and they're kooky ...*



Check out our selection of Halloween-themed music books for piano, vocal and guitar! Learn songs like “Monster Mash,” “Ding-Dong! The Witch is Dead” and themes from “Jaws,” “The Addams Family,” “The Munsters,” “The Twilight Zone” and more!



**Like us on Facebook!**  
[Facebook.com/gartensmusic](https://www.facebook.com/gartensmusic)