



Garten's Music

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February 2021

Longtime couple shares love of music

Goofin' Around Keyboard Class students play country, gospel songs as they learn together

This Valentine's Day, Willard and Diana Friend are sharing more than a holiday together. They are sharing the gift of music.

They are students in the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class for adult beginners at Garten's Music. Diana is a member of the Red Book 2 class, and Willard is taking Red Book 1. They own a Lowrey EZ10.

The shared hobby is appropriate for them since music helped bring them together more than 30 years ago. Willard was a high school physics teacher, and Diana's daughter attended the school where he worked, although she wasn't in his class. Willard asked her mother to go to the Reba McEntire concert.

"My daughter said, 'You're not going to go with him to that, are you?'" Diana recalled. "And I said, 'Well, certainly I'm not going to miss Reba McEntire!'"

Willard and Diana will celebrate their 32nd anniversary in March. They each have two children, and they share seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Willard and Diana Friend

Both are retired, and Diana said she had seen ads for the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class for years, but she put off enrolling because she thought she had too much going on. That changed in 2020.

"We didn't have anything going on this year!" Willard quipped.

Diana took piano lessons when she was 6 or 7, but her teacher would hit her fingers with a ruler if she made a mistake, and she quit lessons after about a year. However, she played clarinet and liked to sing. She was raised by her grand-

parents, and her grandfather played piano and then bought an organ later in life.

"There was always music in our house," Diana said.

She admitted that taking her first Goofin' Around Keyboard Class was "a little scary."

"You still have those old things playing in your mind," she said. "I was like, 'What if I can't do this?'"

However, teacher Cindy Houston helped her feel at ease.

"Cindy's knowledgeable and makes me feel comfortable," Diana said. "She's not going so fast and expecting a major change out of me all of a sudden. It's very low-key, and I like that."

Willard also appreciates the relaxed atmosphere in class.

"There is structure, but it's not intimidating," he said.

Diana's favorite song she has learned so far is "I Walk the Line." She and Willard share a passion for country and gospel music. She also

► See "Friend," Page 3.

Graduation day!



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 1)! Top row, from left: Marcia Goodner, Nancy Pickler. Middle row, from left: Sharon Kroh, Sandy Tinsmon. Bottom row, from left: Randy McKinney, Diana Friend, Bob and Karen Winchester.

Thanks for the referral!

Thanks to Astrid G. for her referral! Students who refer a friend to the Wichita Music Academy or Goofin' Around Keyboard Class earn \$25 when that person enrolls!



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

Kaleb W.
Jase M.
Terry A.
Mike M.

Alyson K.
Axel A.
Lex O.
Jose S.

Eastyn D.
Sam G.
Hunter S.



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Christmas Songs with 3 Chords)! Clockwise from top left: Diane Gestenslager, Pamela Thompson, Kate Meyer, Helen Lynch, Chris Barnes. Not pictured: Tina Baldwin, Sandra Reay, Linda Turner.

►Friend, from Page 1.

loves songs that her grandfather used to play such as “The Animal Fair,” “The Crawdad Song” and “Jambalaya.”

“I try to make sure I play something every day,” Diana said. “It seems like I can’t just play a couple songs – I usually end up looking through the book and trying several things.”

Willard, who served in the Army from 1969 to 1971, asked Diana to find him the music to “Taps.” She helped him learn the song and urged him to take the Goofin’ Around Keyboard Class.

“The class is appropriately named

because I make lots of goofs,” said Willard, who described the class as enlightening and entertaining. “It goes from where you are to wherever you can get. Music’s something I can do until I lose all my faculties.”

“It’s always good to keep your brain functioning by learning something new,” Diana added. “Especially with the pandemic, you need to do something to keep your brain functioning!”

The classes provide a needed social activity for the Friends. Their church is still closed and live streaming services, and their grandchildren’s events that they

used to attend – music concerts, swim meets and rowing competitions – all stopped in 2020.

That’s another reason that the keyboard classes are important to the couple.

“In our first class we didn’t talk a lot,” Diana said, “but now we’re more comfortable and conversing. And I’m a people person, so I kind of need that interaction.”



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.



Abby S.



Colin S.



Zeph R.



Carlita S.



Sophia E.



Evelyn V.



Tayton J.



Henry M.



Bryce L.



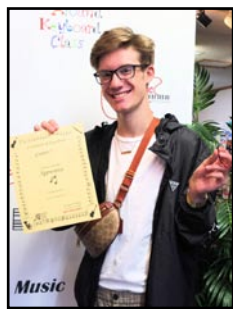
Elayne L.



Warner P.



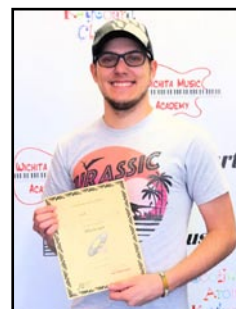
Madison A.



Carter J.



Jennifer S.



Zack H.



Ivy L.



Leah L.



Anthony R.



Brody H.



Rosalin J.



Mercedeze B.



Antonio G.



Jillian D.



QuyAnh N.



Brenley G.



Sean L.



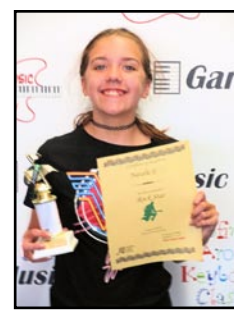
Damiana E.



Isaac M.



Braelynn M.



Natalie E.



Miley R.



Hector P.



Sophia L.



Emmett G.



Kayden M.

The Wichita Music Academy's Virtual Student Showcases will be posted Valentine's weekend at tinyurl.com/gartensmusic! We're excited to see our students perform!

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:

– 10:30 a.m. Friday,
Feb. 19



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