



Garten's Music

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



January 2023

'It's something my soul wanted to do'

Cindy Thorsell first learned about the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class at Senior Expo, but years went by before she enrolled.

"It's something my soul wanted to do, was to get back into music," she said.

Thorsell played piano as a child and into early adulthood.

"But I probably haven't touched it for 20 years," she remarked. "I kind of let life get in the way."

She retired in 2018 and eventually decided to visit Garten's Music and see if she would enjoy the class. Her first class started in fall 2022.

"It's kind of a scary first step – it's like anything that's new," she said. "You don't know what you're getting into and whether you're going to like it.

"I was very nervous," she added. "I kind of dragged my friend Judy into it with me, and she enjoyed it, too."

Thorsell purchased a Lowrey EZ3 at the end of her first class.

"I play it every day," she said. "Very seldom does a day go by that



Cindy Thorsell resumed her music-making journey when she joined the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class.

I don't do something on it. It could be 15 minutes, it could be a couple of hours."

She loves hymns and gospel music, and she also likes country and easy listening. Her favorite songs she has learned to play are "In the Garden" and "The Impossible Dream." Her goal is to learn "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran.

"It enriches my life," she said of her hobby. "It makes me happy."

She attended the annual Christmas lunch in December for Goofin' Around Keyboard Class students.

"I was surprised at the number of people who were there," she said.

"That made me happy, just to know that there's a big community of people who do this. And those that played for us were just inspiring."

Thorsell offered some advice for those considering taking their first Goofin' Around Keyboard Class.

"Don't be afraid," she said. "Take it! You can do it. Believe in yourself.

"It could bring them joy that they didn't know they were looking for," she continued. "There's so much to be struggling with in the world today. And you'll make new friends – that's just kind of a bonus."

Graduation day!



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Grammy Awards, Part 1)! From left: Hilde Yops, Karen Stocks, Larry Grimes, Theresa Hubbard. Not pictured: Brenda Lee.

Anniversary celebration, concert draws a crowd

Garten's Music & the Wichita Music Academy owners Michael and Cindy Houston attended a holiday concert and 50th anniversary celebration of the New York Paramount Theatre organ being in Wichita! Former Wichitan Brett Valliant was the featured performer Dec. 3 on the Wurlitzer pipe organ, and the night included a Christmas carol sing-along! Some of our Goofin' Around Keyboard Class students also attended.



Above: Brett Valliant plays the Wurlitzer pipe organ. Above left: Goofin' Around Keyboard Class students Bobbi Bruce and Gary Miley. At left: Goofin' Around Keyboard Class students Judy Foy and Cindy Thorsell.

Mark your calendars!

Upcoming classes and gatherings at Garten's Music:

MusicMakers, open to our Goofin' Around Keyboard Class students, includes a Name That Tune game, playing tips, new songbooks and great music!

– 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20
(Theme: Songs of the South)

Wichita Music Academy Student Showcases are set for Saturday, Feb. 25, and Sunday, Feb. 26! Visit the front desk or call 942-1337 to sign up. We can't wait for the performances!

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:
– 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25

Classes starting!

Lowrey Magic theme class

– starts at 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 10

Lowrey Magic Blue Book 1

– starts at 10:30 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 13

Thank you for voting us No. 1 for Best Musical Instrument Store in 2022! We are grateful for your support in the Wichita Eagle's Best of Wichita contest!

Holiday harmonies

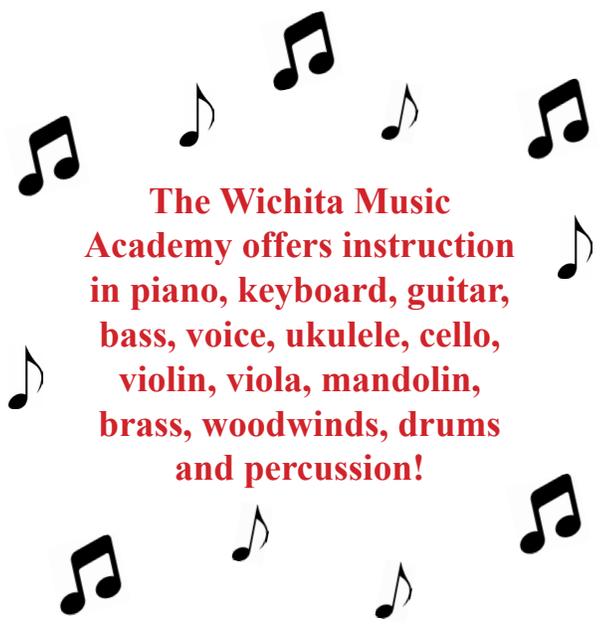
The annual Christmas luncheon for Goofin' Around Keyboard Classes took place in December at Venue 3130! Our students enjoyed a gift exchange, a music book sale and lunch catered by Spear's Restaurant & Pie Shop. Some students also played Christmas music during the event!



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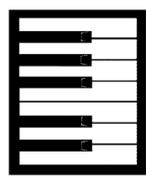
The Wichita Music Academy offers instruction in piano, keyboard, guitar, bass, voice, ukulele, cello, violin, viola, mandolin, brass, woodwinds, drums and percussion!

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

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|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Cindy S. | Georgie E. | Kathleen W. |
| Sophia C. | Anya R. | Kathy H. |
| Jessica R. | Bob C. | Benjamin S. |
| Hudson S. | Jeffrey S. | Ronnie P. |
| J.D. E. | Nancy A. | Maryam D. |
| Cindy L. | Aidan A. | Pat G. |
| Tom C. | Marty V. | Judy F. |
| Cindy T. | Kim E. | Barbara M. |
| Rachel P. | Diana F. | Esther G. |
| Nancy P. | Elizabeth T. | Jennifer L. |

Our phone number is still 316-942-1337!
 But **please note** the new number for sending us text messages:
 316-661-6605

What's inside this month's newsletter:
 Adult student loves playing keyboard! Our
FREE introductory Goofin' Around Keyboard
 Class for adult beginners starts soon!



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