



Garten's Music

4235 W. Central • Wichita, KS • 67212

942-1337 • www.gartensmusic.com

www.wichitamusicacademy.com



October 2020

'It's the best thing I ever did'

Goofin' Around Keyboard Class student develops talent, shares music with 97-year-old mother

When Sheryl Knott enrolled in the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class in October 2017, she was unsure about the idea. She figured she would attend one session, and if she didn't like it, she wouldn't continue.

Throughout the 10-week class, she said, she wasn't confident that she would move on and be able to fit more classes into her schedule.

"Now it's three years later!" she exclaimed. "I liked the people and I liked the class. It's so fun. I just look so forward to coming over here all the time."

She described teachers Mark Short and Cindy Houston as "fabulous," and she noted that she has made new friends. She now owns a Lowrey EZ3



Sheryl Knott's favorite music is jazz and blues.

and 58 music books.

"It's easy to get started," Knott said. "The truth is it's the best thing I ever did. I'm a musical person."

Although she lacked confidence at first, Knott has made a rule for herself that she will play a song each week for her class. Performing in class is not mandatory, she said, but her self-imposed rule keeps her dedicated to playing at home and working consistently on her music.

In the past six months, Knott remarked, she realized that her favorite music is jazz and blues.

"That's what I gravitate toward," she said. "It's challenging. It's a little harder to play, but it's interesting. It's refreshing. When you get the song, it's like, 'Yeah! I learned one. It was hard, but I did it anyway.'"

Knott also attends Music-Makers, a group that meets

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Graduation day!



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Blue Book 3)! Top row, from left: Noel Gary, Gary Miley, Galen Fruth, Lisa Shorter. Middle row, from left: Judy Fruth, Helon Spencer, Fred Washington. Bottom row, from left: Debra Higgs, Judy and Fred Cook, Geri Acridge, Rosie Brumit. Not pictured: Casey O'Donnell, Carolyn Johnson.



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Blue Book 1)! Top row, from left: Eva Ornelas, Karen Armstrong, Larry Johnson. Bottom row, from left: Sheryl Knott, sisters Gayla Scott and Rilla Rogus. Not pictured: LaJuan Hutcherson, Joan Welborn.

Mark your calendars!

Upcoming classes and gatherings at Garten's Music:

MusicMakers

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

– 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16
(Theme: Body parts)



Lowrey artist Chuck Wright (pictured above) will visit Garten's! A free workshop for owners of all single-keyboard Lowrey instruments will start at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27. And our second annual Lowrey **Halloween party** will last from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Venue 3130! The event will include costumes, workshops, concerts and fun! The cost is \$11 per person with lunch included. Call 942-1337 for more details about our *frightfully* fun day of 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:
– 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13

Fall class:

Lowrey Magic Red Book 1

– starts at 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 20

Christmas classes:

– starts at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4
– starts at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5
– starts at 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5
– starts at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 11
– starts at 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 17

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

Naomi E.
Elijah P.
Carmen R.
Sandy T.
Karen W.
Nancy P.
Emma Y.
Abigail B.

Robert F.
Bryce V.
George S.
Linda T.
Randy M.
Sharon K.
Cindi G.

Jeremy Z.
Chris T.
Marcia G.
Bob W.
Tony D.
Diana F.
Ava C.



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WMA students earn recognition

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



Lea K.



Alisson M.



Zeph R.



Mark R.



Zack H.



Sebastian G.



William L.



Aidan A.



Anabelle A.



Olivia R.



Brendan W.



Miley R.



Kinley L.



Joshua M.



Bryan O.



Micah O.



Carolyn N.



Sophia B.



Addison M.



Alexis M.

►Continued from Page 1.

monthly at Garten's and is open to all Goofin' Around Keyboard Classes. Many of those who attend aren't in her class, she said, but she considers them friends.

Knott's three-year musical journey has impacted others' lives as well.

"Now my best friend is in the class. She started last year," Knott said. "We've started practicing duets together. We actually played one at the last MusicMakers. It turned out pretty well."

Knott's 97-year-old mother lives with her, and Knott plays songs that her mother knows and sometimes challenges her to "name that tune." She pointed out that music provides a good challenge for the brain, which she said is important as people age. And it was crucial during the shutdown that occurred as a result of the pandemic.

"There was a whole lot of loneliness with the isolation," Knott said. "Music filled an empty space. It warms your heart up."

Now she has returned to class, where she and her fellow students wear masks and sit

spaced apart.

"That's my only outside venture, other than basic living things like buying groceries," Knott said. "This is my main outlet and I'm happy about that. It makes it happier in the house and it's good to get out."

Knott's goals include playing songs by heart, continuing to refine the song "Rhapsody in Blue" – which she has enjoyed learning – and purchasing a bigger instrument with more features soon. She is proud that she recently added ragtime to her repertoire. Knott remarked that she likes a challenge, which Short learned when he introduced the song "The Gambler" and challenged students – as a joke – to write more verses.

"Well, I did," Knott recalled. "It brought Garten's and Mark and Cindy into it. It was hilarious!"

Knott was quick to think of advice she would offer someone who was nervous about joining the class and learning music.

"I would tell them, just try one session," she said. "What, more than likely, will happen is you're going to love it because it just makes you so happy. And you don't have to rush to learn because there's absolutely no pressure. It's at your own pace."

"You never get tired of it," she added. "There's always something new. There's always another thing to work on. I like that."



Sheryl Knott has made many new friends in her class.

What's inside this month's newsletter:

- Goofin' Around Keyboard Class student develops talent, shares music with mother
- Lowrey artist to visit for student workshops, Halloween party with costumes!



Halloween is Saturday, Oct. 31! Students are invited to wear their costumes to lessons for some spook-tacular fun!

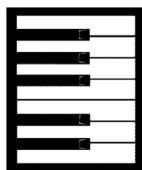
The Wichita Music Academy offers instruction in piano, keyboard, guitar, bass, voice, ukulele, banjo, violin, viola, cello, brass, woodwinds, drums and percussion!

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

Naomi E.
Elijah P.
Carmen R.
Sandy T.
Karen W.
Nancy P.
Emma Y.
Abigail B.

Robert F.
Bryce V.
George S.
Linda T.
Randy M.
Sharon K.
Cindi G.

Jeremy Z.
Chris T.
Marcia G.
Bob W.
Tony D.
Diana F.
Ava C.



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