



Garten's Music

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August 2020

'Been a weird time'

Virtual sax lessons help provide comfort, consistency, continued progress for budding pro

Henry Millar started saxophone lessons as a beginner one year ago at Garten's Music, home of the Wichita Music Academy. Henry, 12, switched to remote lessons when the shutdown occurred in March and has remained an online student who works with instructor Steve Jones.

"I think it's a testament to a great teacher, that he can communicate what he needs to communicate even through a computer screen," said Millar's mother, Shaunna. "Henry looks forward to it. As other things have changed and things are up in the air, saxophone and his music lessons have been a solid, consistent thing that has been

Watch Henry's Winter Student Showcase performance online:
tinyurl.com/henry-m



Henry Millar poses with his first Musical Ladder trophy.

comforting to him and me, too.

"Other things have been lost, but this isn't going to be one of them. That is really important," she said, her voice breaking. "It makes me emotional to think about. It's been a weird time. To have something that didn't feel weird was awesome."

Henry, who played in the
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Power of paws-itivity



Our retail sale to benefit the Kansas Humane Society drew many donations of items for the animals plus \$256.87 in financial contributions. Thanks!

Student to join youth symphony orchestra

Kudos to Wichita Music Academy student Alyssa Kennedy, who was selected during a late audition for the Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestras Program! Kennedy studies violin with WMA instructor Pam Lawson. Our July newsletter recognized two other WMA students who were accepted as well.

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, Aug. 21
(Theme: Hobby Begins)



Garten's Music & the Wichita Music Academy will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday!

Wichita Music Academy Student Showcases

will be at 5 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, and 1, 3, 5 and 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16! They will take place at Best Western Wichita North, 915 E. 53rd St. N. Showcases will be held in a 10,000-square-foot room where we can all spread out! A photographer will be on hand to take students' photos with their instruments, and performances will be recorded and posted to our YouTube channel. We look forward to the music!

Classes starting:

Lowrey Magic Red Book 3

– starts at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 19

Theme class:

Songs For All Occasions

– starts at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 26

Theme class:

Grammy Awards, Part 2

– starts at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 27

Theme class: Favorite Songs with 3 Chords

– starts at 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 27

Lowrey Magic Red Book 2

– starts at 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 1

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

Zack H.
Hattie S.
Leena P.
Mia G.
Jennifer H.
Kaidense H.

Brian S.
Delaney R.
Jennifer S.
Jaden V.
Austyn S.
Karla M.

Nicholas R.
Matthew K.
Jacquelyn F.
Alec S.
J.J. K.



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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! See more photos, Page 4.



Sarah V.



Abby S.



Ellie H.



Evans C.



Adeanna J.



William L.



Brooklyn C.



Lea K.



Ailey F.



Sam G.



Rooks R.



Brody H.



Colin S.



Melissa V.



Rand R.



Alexis H.



Lina F.



Jack S.



Teacher Andrew
and Israel V.



Kylie S.



Alisson M.



Cooper R.



Foster M.



Sebastian G.



Ella W.



Adam S.



Sofia M.



Alyssa K.



Mercedeze B.



Rosalin J.



Shawn M.



Johanna S.



Rey Z.



Sophia L.



Aiden B.



Mark R.



Sebastian and Isabella W.



Anastacia and Anthony R.

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

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school band last year, likes all kinds of music. His favorite song he has learned on sax is “Theme from the Pink Panther,” and his goal is to learn The Avengers theme song. He was first drawn to saxophone because of a TV show.

“There’s this show called ‘Parks and Recreation,’” Henry said, “and one of the main characters, Ron Swanson, has this secret identity named Duke Silver and he plays the saxophone at night. When I first saw him do that, I was just amazed by what he could do and I wanted to be able to do that.”

After starting lessons in August, Henry played in his first Wichita Music Academy Student Showcase in December.

“It was very nerve-wracking,” he said. “I was kind of scared. It was my first time playing saxophone in front of anyone else but my family. But once I was done, it was just, ‘Boom. Done. I’m happy.’”

“I like being nervous because it helped me get through it and it helped me just kind of roll with it,” he continued. “It was just really fun, and I really loved it.”

Henry’s saxophone talent

led to more opportunities at school, too. He was among just a few sixth-graders invited to play in the seventh-grade jazz band, and he played in the city music festival, where he received extremely positive feedback from his judge.

“Those outside praises just reinforce that we made the right decision to come to Garten’s,” Shaunna said, “because it helped him move ahead so quickly that he’s felt like he could take on these bigger challenges as they present themselves.”

Henry is looking ahead, as he hopes to become a professional musician. He is also anticipating additional progress on the Musical Ladder System, which affords Wichita Music Academy students the chance to earn trophies, wristbands and certificates for achieving musical milestones. Henry will test for his Rock Star trophy in August.

“It’s so much fun,” Shaunna said. “We had to buy a whole new shelf for his bedroom because he’s so proud of his trophy. He has one music trophy, but we had to buy a whole shelf for it! He wanted space for all the trophies to come – he’s already anticipating. He’s envisioning his musical career as a music student, and



Henry and his teacher, Steve Jones, during a virtual lesson.

I really love that. It’s great to have a reminder that you’re growing, you’re succeeding.”

“I think it’s really neat,” Henry added. “I don’t think any other place that I’ve ever been to has done that. I’ve played piano in the past, and they didn’t have wristbands or trophies. I think that’s really unique.”

Henry has continued to earn Musical Ladder awards, even as an online student. He said that forging ahead in music lessons had helped him cope with the pandemic.

“We don’t even know if there will be band at school next year,” Shaunna pointed out. “What I know is that Garten’s is going to allow him to be a band-instrument-playing kid, whether there’s band in school or not. Henry and I both are really grateful.”