Music interest leads to scholarship

Jennifer Pham started playing guitar when she had nothing to do during spring break of her eighth-grade year. Now a high school senior, she has received a music scholarship in guitar at Newman University.

“I started at a later age than most kids did,” Pham said, “so it’s an interesting journey now, being able to accomplish what I’ve accomplished on my own and at such a rapid rate, too. I’m pretty surprised at myself.”

Some of Pham’s family members are musicians, so she had easy access to guitars. She taught herself to play and then encountered Garten’s Music & the Wichita Music Academy at Asian Festival in 2015. She visited our booth and met her future teacher, Les Clark.

“I met Les and I got to jam with him for a little bit,” she said. “That was actually a really fun experience.”

Pham started lessons with Clark at the Wichita Music Academy in May 2016. Her favorite types of music are funk, blues, rock and “anything Jimi Hendrix,” she said. Clark is also a Hendrix fanatic. Pham’s first-ever solo performance was in December 2016 at the Student Showcase.

“That was a really important step in my music journey, being able to perform for the first time,” she said. “And being able to perform a Hendrix medley was pretty cool, too.”

She described her second showcase, in June 2017, as “a pretty good progression” although she still felt a bit nervous. In the December 2017 showcase, she improvised. She was comfortable without music, she recalled,

►Continued on Page 2.
Graduation day!

Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin’ Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 3)!

Continued from Page 1.

because that’s how she and Clark chose their songs.

“We tend to make things up on the spot,” she said. “That tends to be our strong suit. That’s how our third showcase came to be, because of being able to be free to be creative and being loose on stage.

“I just went with the music,” she added. “That’s how I tend to roll.”

Pham has no scheduled practice time, but she plays her guitar every day. She played an improv piece when she auditioned for her scholarship at Newman University, which is an aspect of her music that Clark helped her develop.

“I’ve gotten a lot better, I’d say, at soloing and creating melodies and just improvising on the spot,” she said. “That’s something I really wanted to do when I first started taking lessons, and now that I’ve gotten to the point where I can actually do that, I just want to get better at it.”

Pham, who attends Catholic school, plays guitar for all-school Mass. She plans to major in pre-med with a minor in graphic design and business. Her goals for her music include joining a band since she doesn’t see many female guitarists, especially solo guitarists, in the industry.

She offered some advice for those considering whether to take lessons. She admitted that it was weird at first to start as a teenager when some other guitar students were younger children.

“If you’re really interested in

Continued on Page 3.
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, April 20
(Theme: Songs of My Teens)

L.I.F.E. in Kansas
MusicMakers
Join the club and enjoy
making music with us!
– 2 p.m. Friday, May 4

Classes starting!
Lowrey Magic theme class
(Campfire Songs)
– starts at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, April 4

Lowrey Magic
Blue Book 3
– starts at 2 p.m.
Tuesday, April 10

Lowrey Magic theme class
(Favorite Songs
with Three Chords)
– starts at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18

Lowrey Magic
Red Book 1
– starts at 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18

Lowrey Magic
Blue Book 1
– starts at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 19

Welcome to new &
returning students
who signed up for
lessons & classes!
Sondra S.
Braelynn M.
Karen A.
Arahel V.
Nevaeh C.
Jacqueline B.
Brynlee W.
Alivia F.
Daniel C.
Ryleigh W.
Tayton J.
Alexander C.
Tonya C.

Keyboard Klub
is a monthly gathering
developed for students from
Red Book 1 through Red
4. Mark and Cindy provide
tips about how to recover
from mistakes, how and
when to use the Fill and
more. Bring a song to share
with others or come to
listen!
– 3:30 p.m. Tuesday,
April 24

Congrats to the winner of
our monthly drawing for
February! Rafael Valenzuela
received Elvis Presley play-
ning cards and a wallet with a
guitar on it.

Continued from Page 2.
the instrument or the music,
and you’re not sure if you
really want to do it, I’d say
just go for it,” Pham said.
“You never know until you
try an instrument. Take me,
for example – I started when I
was about 14. It doesn’t mat-
ter when you start. It’s about
how much you want to invest
your time into the music and
into learning something. If
you’re going to invest into
your instrument, you want to
do it 100 percent.”
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.

Addison B.  Amanda E.  Ailey F.  Dorian P.  Cooper H.  Elektra T.  Faheem C.  Kevin C.  Anastacia R.  Anthony R.  Freddie C.  Lylie N.

Like us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/gartensmusic
The Wichita Music Academy Student Showcases are set for Sunday, June 24! Students may have their photos taken with their instrument, and performances will be posted on our YouTube channel!
Celebrate guitars this month!
April is International Guitar Month, and we are celebrating! The prize for our monthly drawing is a Stagg foldable guitar stand. Of course, the Wichita Music Academy at Garten’s Music offers guitar, bass and ukulele lessons. And don’t forget to check out our guitar items such as strings, tuners, straps, picks, books and more!

Movie time
Stephanie Brittian won our Women’s Fair drawing for a gift card to the Warren Theatres (Regal Cinemas). Congratulations, Stephanie!

Need a gift idea for Mother’s Day or graduation?
Get them music-themed accessories, a musical instrument or lessons! We carry pianos, keyboards, guitars, ukes, jewelry, scarves, bags, music books and more!

The Wichita Music Academy offers instruction in piano, keyboard, guitar, bass, voice, ukulele, flute, tuba, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, clarinet, baritone/euphonium, violin, viola, cello, drums & percussion!