

# Garten's Music

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April 2018

## 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



Jennifer Pham: “You never know until you try an instrument.”

Watch more of our interview with Jennifer:

<http://bit.ly/AprilFeaturedStudent>

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,

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# Graduation day!



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 3)! From left: Casey O'Donnell, Geri Acridge, Debra Higgs, Rosie Brumit, Lisa Shorter, Judy Fruth, Noel Gary, Helon Spencer, Penny Ruddle, Carolyn Johnson, Galen Fruth, Judy Cook, Fred Cook. Not pictured: Fred Washington.

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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

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# 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)

### 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

### L.I.F.E. in Kansas MusicMakers

Join the club and enjoy making music with us!

– 2 p.m. Friday, May 4

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

Sondra S.	Alivia F.
Braelynn M.	Daniel C.
Karen A.	Ryleigh W.
Arahel V.	Tayton J.
Nevaeh C.	Alexander C.
Jacqueline B.	Tonya C.
Brynlee W.	

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

### 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

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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.



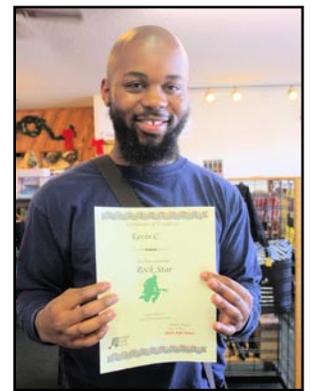
Cooper H.



Elektra T.



Faheem C.



Kevin C.



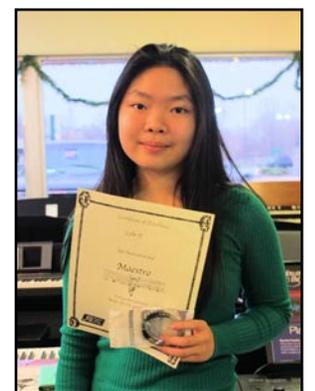
Anastacia R.



Anthony R.



Freddie C.



Lylie N.



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Aidan K.



Amy B.



Brenley G.



Sam G.



Silas R.



Trent B.



Shawn M.



Gabe G.



Collin S.



Mercedeze B.



Lily C.



Rhyz R., left, and instructor Danny Ibarra



Caleb V. with teacher Andrew Wingert

**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!



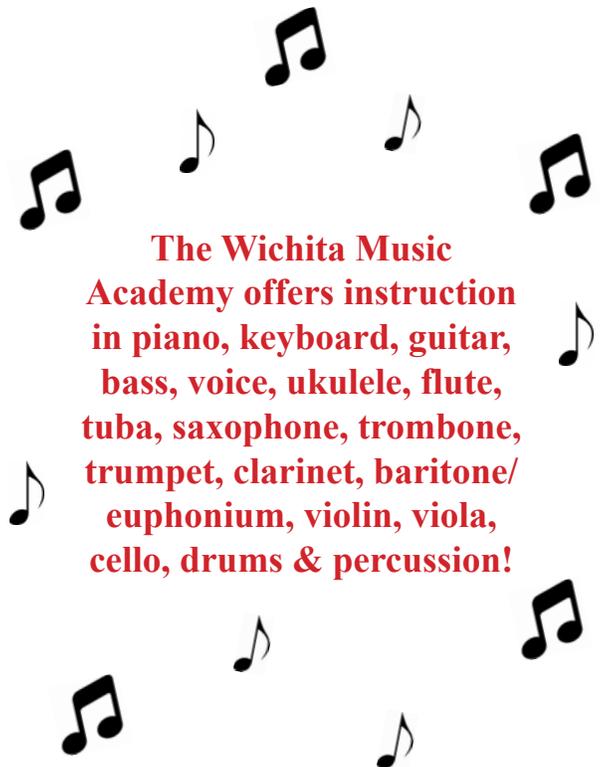
### Movie time

Stephanie Brittan 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!**