



Garten's Music

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Aspiring songwriter learns music

Elektra Thompson, who will be in fourth grade this fall, hopes to be a songwriter. She sometimes writes lyrics, and she began taking guitar lessons so she could learn music.

Thompson's family bought her a pink acoustic guitar at Garten's Music, and she now owns a purple Daisy Rock guitar. Garten's, home of the Wichita Music Academy, recently started carrying Daisy Rock instruments. The company was founded by guitarist and bass player Tish Ciravolo, who wanted the guitar world to be more welcoming for girls. The Daisy Rock line features guitars in various colors and patterns that are lighter weight with slimmer necks, so they are easier for girls to hold.

Thompson said she enjoyed playing guitar.

"I can make noise with the



Elektra Thompson

guitar," she explained, "and it's easy to carry around."

Thompson added that listening to music sparked her desire to take lessons. Country music is her favorite.

"I like that I'm learning," she remarked.

Thompson studies with Wichita Music Academy

instructor Les Clark, who said she always arrived for her lessons with a smile and a good attitude.

"Elektra is super-excited all the time and always wanting to learn something new," Clark said.

Thompson also complimented Clark.

► **Continued inside.**



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Virtual Orchestra Songbook 1)! Front row, from left: Evelyn Whitmer, Wanda Shaw, Joyce O'Dell, Dee Cheatham. Back row, from left: Lynette Hasz, Connie Profaizer, Priscilla Liddeke, Floyd Hansen.



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 2)! Front row, from left: Polly McGreevy, Liz Hicks. Back row, from left: Lynne Gable, Sherrel Canterbury, Gene Krehbiel. Not pictured: Brent Kleeman, LE Anderson, Jack Cassell, Shane Hutchinson.

Graduation day!

► Continued from front page.



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 3)! Front row, from left: Velda Luce, John Luce. Back row, from left: Edna Tomlin, Brenda Mareda. Not pictured: Leo Howe.

“I like him,” she said. “He’s just nice.”

When she’s not playing guitar, Thompson likes to color and spend time with her dogs – a dachshund named Rusty and a boxer named Spot. According to Thompson, their nicknames are Barker and Whiner.

Thompson said her advice to others considering music lessons was “to at least try it.”

“It’s fun,” she continued. “You will never know how it is until you try it.”



Catrina Owen



Elena Alvarez



Dedicated student

Congratulations to Tiffany Wong, who celebrated her two-year anniversary at the Wichita Music Academy! She studies piano with Robby Avila.

Reaching a milestone

Congratulations to our students who celebrated their one-year anniversaries at the Wichita Music Academy this summer!

They are guitarist Catrina Owen and pianists Elena Alvarez, Will Sorochty, Emily Bauer, Mickel Warren and Cristofer Warren.



Cristofer Warren



Mickel Warren



Emily Bauer



Will Sorochty

Mark your calendars!

Upcoming classes and gatherings at Garten's 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:
– 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18

L.I.F.E. in Kansas MusicMakers

Join the club and enjoy making music with us!

– 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7

Organ Club

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

– 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21
(Theme: Directional)

PlayTime

is an opportunity for current and former Lowrey students to enjoy listening to and playing for your friends!

– 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14

“Easy Favorites” theme class

In this 10-week class, students will learn some all-time favorite songs that they'll enjoy playing! They'll continue to learn more about rhythm, chords, reading music, choosing registrations, and using the great sounds and features on Lowrey organs. This is a great class for graduates of Lowrey Magic Red Book 2!

– 10:30 a.m. Thursday,
Aug. 20

Baby visit



Garten's staff member Vesta Campbell recently had someone special visit the store: her 2-month-old great-granddaughter, Bristol!

Watch for us:

At Senior Expo
– Thursday, Sept. 24

At Asian Festival
– Saturday, Oct. 24

Watch for our merchandise at silent auctions:

Sedgwick County
Zoo's Zoobilee
– Saturday, Sept. 12

Kansas Humane
Society's Woofstock
at Sedgwick County
Park
– Saturday, Oct. 3

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

Joe G.	Evelyn W.
Amy H.	Dee C.
Pam L.	Joyce O.
Larissa R.	Virginia H.
Vesta C.	Lynne G.
Wanda S.	Liz H.
John B.	Brent K.
Bill H.	LE A.
Connie P.	Gene K.
Nancy W.	Polly M.
Connie G.	Shane H.

Longtime pianist enjoys teaching

► Instructor starts job at Wichita Music Academy

Joy Vigilus is new to Kansas and to the Wichita Music Academy at Garten's Music, but she is delighted with her slate of piano students.

"I've really enjoyed all the students I've had so far," she said. "It's such a warm, friendly environment here. Students are excited to be here and to be learning. It's very cool."

Vigilus grew up in Washington, D.C. Her mother played the piano, and her two older brothers took piano lessons.

"I was always the kid that wanted to do whatever they were doing," she said.

Vigilus began learning to play the piano when she was 4. She played for church services and accompanied her church choir when she was in high school. After studying political philosophy for two years in college, she switched to a music emphasis "and just fell in love with it all over again," she recalled.

She received her first teaching job during college, when



Piano teacher Joy Vigilus moved from Minnesota to Kansas.

she worked at a Virginia music and arts school that offered lessons. She earned her bachelor of arts in music.

Vigilus married and moved to Minnesota, where her husband entered law school. She worked at a music academy and also a piano school there. The couple relocated to Kansas because her husband is from Wichita.

Vigilus likes teaching her students about how to play and become better musicians, but she loves other aspects of

the profession, too.

"I love that it's not only about music," she said. "Music challenges a musician on more levels than just playing. It helps us grow as people."

Vigilus also pointed out that if students were having a bad day, they arrived and discussed music and soon felt better.

"I feel like I'm doing something meaningful," she added. "It's fulfilling."

Vigilus likes listening to classical music, The Beatles and indie musicians. She spends time playing church music and recently took up jazz "to get out of my comfort zone."

"I tell my students to do that," she remarked, "so I need to do it, too."

Wichita Music Academy students receive a \$20 gift certificate for every new student they refer to the academy! \$\$



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