



Garten's Music

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Student loves Beatles, Elton John

Vicky Isliefson is a teacher who loves to take classes. The algebra teacher has enrolled in decorative painting and sewing classes, and she celebrated her one-year anniversary last fall as a piano student at the Wichita Music Academy.

“I knew a little bit about music already,” she said, “and I realized the piano is the ultimate instrument for a math teacher because it’s a graph of all the notes.”

Isliefson played guitar when she was a child and took up the fiddle in the early 2000s. She and her family moved from Canada to Wichita on Dec. 31, 1999 – just in time for the new millennium.

The family owned a piano, but Isliefson said her husband didn’t play it and she thought someone should. She learned about the Goofin’ Around Keyboard Class from Michael Houston, who was working at the Garten’s



Vicky Isliefson took the Goofin’ Around Keyboard Class and is now a Wichita Music Academy piano student.

Music booth at the Women’s Fair.

“It wasn’t a huge time commitment and it wasn’t hugely expensive,” she said.

Isliefson likes to play classic rock from the 1960s and 1970s, especially The Beatles. She plans to learn more Paul McCartney and Elton John music, and she recently worked on the song “Linus and Lucy.”

“I got into that over Christmas,” she said.

As a teacher, Isliefson said she appreciated Garten’s Music and the Wichita Music Academy – and the idea of helping adults feel comfortable learning something new.

“If you want to do it, don’t be afraid – just do it,” she advised. “And have fun with it.”

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Graduation day!

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



Congratulations to our graduates of the Goofin' Around Keyboard Class (Red Book 1)! Seated, from left: LE Anderson, Polly McGreevy, Liz Hicks. Standing, from left: Gene Krehbiel, Shane Hutchinson, Brent Kleeman.

Michael S.	Betty N.
Chase H.	Wanda S.
Ryder A.	Evelyn W.
Donovan B.	Dee C.
Carolina S.	Nancy W.
Haley M.	Cindy P.
Terry J.	Jack C.
Cleofe B.	Sue M.
Camryn H.	Joyce O.
Breanna S.	Bill H.
Malea P.	Brent K.
Brian S.	Bill S.
Katie S.	Janis N.
Becky K.	Lynne G.
Eva B.	Margaret S.
Kerrie P.	Tina B.
Karen S.	Farol M.
Peggy H.	Becky E.
Linda B.	Susan L.
Vesta C.	Pam A.
Carl B.	Betty P.
Phyllis C.	Jim G.
Priscilla L.	Dee T.

Spring for a Kawai



For **March only**, Kawai is offering customers an **instant rebate** on selected acoustic and digital pianos. Rebates range from \$150 to \$1,000, depending on which instrument is purchased. Hurry in today to take advantage of this offer!



Allison Dale poses with her new Kawai piano at Garten's. It will replace a piano that burned when the family's home caught fire.

Goings-on at Garten's & beyond



Garten's Music & the Wichita Music Academy had a booth at the Women's Fair in Wichita! Connie Davis (pictured above), Ruth Faught, Millie Tallman and Connie Gonzalez played a Lowrey keyboard at our booth. We also held drawings and sold instruments. (See ukuleles below.)



Congratulations to Caitlyn Johnson, above, and Cody Galicia for celebrating their one-year anniversaries at the Wichita Music Academy! Johnson is a vocalist studying with Adam Willingham and Galicia is a guitarist studying with Thor Bonner.



Like us on Facebook!
Facebook.com/gartensmusic

Congratulations to our monthly drawing winner for January! Christy Ross' prize was a Snark guitar tuner.

Teacher's goal: instill love of music

Matt Kuzma is an accomplished musician, but he had a rough start when he took up guitar as a teenager.

He hoped to play drums, but since his brother already had a guitar, his mother told him to learn that instrument. Kuzma played for two years and wanted to quit – until he met his sister's boyfriend, who was also a guitarist. The boys began playing chords and singing songs, especially Crosby, Stills & Nash.

"It really opened my eyes to what was possible," Kuzma said, "and I've done it ever since."

Kuzma played electric and acoustic guitar in high school, and he focused on blues and rock 'n' roll in college.



Matt Kuzma

"Also in that time I became enamored with slide guitar," said Kuzma, who wore out his Allman Brothers albums.

He now plays bass, dobro and mandolin as well. He has played in bands and for church. His first guitar student was his son. That kicked off a passion for teaching.

Kuzma tries to instill the love of music that he discovered: "I really like to see their eyes

light up or that smile when they get it right," he said.

Kuzma, who also writes songs, described teaching at the Wichita Music Academy as a rewarding endeavor.

"There are also so many life lessons in music," he added.

The importance of practicing and striving to improve teach the necessity of long-term work as opposed to immediate rewards, he explained. By playing in a band, musicians learn that everyone has a role, and Kuzma said solos teach the life lesson of knowing "when to step forward and when to step back."

He has played music for 40 years and taught for 10 years. He still plays in church.

Save some green this month! Check out our St. Patrick's sale! And we'll have a fun basketball contest where you can win discounts on store merchandise.



The Wichita Music Academy offers piano, keyboard, guitar, bass, voice, ukulele, dobro, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, saxophone, tuba, trombone, trumpet, cello, clarinet, flute, violin, viola and baritone/euphonium lessons! Call or stop by today!



Feeling Inspired

Above: Lowrey's Bob Ashworth and Chuck Wright visited Garten's in February to provide concerts and introduce the new Lowrey Inspire.



Ashworth shows Lowrey student John Bignell the features of the Inspire.

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When I sit down and play the piano, I forget everything else. And you know, if you can annoy your kids a little bit, all the better!"

Isliefson admitted that it could be difficult to fit practice time into her busy schedule, but she said the recommended 30 minutes of practice each day didn't have to occur all at once. She said she sometimes takes 10 minutes to herself for practicing and then returns later to play some

more.

Isliefson has played during student concerts at the Wichita Music Academy, and she enjoys her teacher, Su Kheng Kang. Her instructor asks her to complete the necessary exercises but also encourages her to decide what she wants to learn next.

"She's always willing to try whatever music I want to play," Isliefson said.

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 p.m. Thursday,
April 16



Show your school spirit with the KU guitar, available at Garten's! We have KU guitar picks & straps, too!

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

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