

**Arts4All Florida  
Student of the Month  
February 2021**



17-year-old **Charles Levandoski** was nominated by Nancy Lorenzen, the Operations Director at Tampa Metropolitan Youth Orchestra. Nancy writes, “Charles has been a bass player and member of [TMYO] since 2016. He started playing in TMYO's intermediate orchestra and worked his way up to the Symphony Orchestra, TMYO's most advanced ensemble. He is a dedicated, talented musician with strong musical skills and a great work ethic.”

Arts4All Florida was impressed by Charles’s talent as a bassist but more importantly, his dedication to building up his peers and the broader community. Charles volunteers with TMYO’s younger ensembles during rehearsals and assists in the preparation of events. His hard work reflects the qualities of a mentor who leads by example; he is the first in to help and the last one out. Through TMYO, Charles has played at local nursing homes, the

Henry B. Plant Museum's Picnic in the Park, and the Gasparilla Music Festival. Nancy notes how “Charles enjoys the new opportunities that the outreach concerts provide, and over the years, he probably has participated more than any other TMYO student.”

Charles attends Howard W. Blake School of the Arts and is a member of the school’s Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras, the Chamber Strings, and the Jazz Ensemble. He also plays in the orchestra at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church and the Patel Conservatory. Charles’s talents have taken him beyond local institutions to develop his skills at an international level. He is a member of the International Society of Basses and has attended the Young Bassists Workshops at Ithaca College (2016), the University of Indiana (2018), and the Kansas City Bass Workshops (2016-2020).



12-year-old **Viktor Bevanda** is a self-taught painter who uses art as a means for expression and communication, akin to many children on the Autism Spectrum. Viktor was nominated by his mother, Andrea Bevanda Kun. She writes, “[Viktor] is a great artist and he hasn't let his limitation in comprehension and verbal abilities limit his artistic talent.”

Arts4All Florida was wowed by Viktor’s paintings filled with bright colors, expressionistic brushwork, and a deep understanding of his subject’s form. Viktor’s oeuvre includes a variety of representational works, mostly animals, landscapes, and still lifes, as well as some famous celebrities and popular media characters. His style is reminiscent of the Modernists works of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century painters who increasingly

focused on the purity of color and form. Viktor gravitated to the arts at an early age and soon after his family recognized his artistic development.

Viktor's family emigrated from their home country of Serbia in 2018 and have settled in Aventura, Florida. His family moved to the United States so they could have better access to resources for children with specialized needs. According to his family, "[Viktor] proves Autism is no barrier to creativity." He is able to focus on the details of his work, especially how colors interact with each other. The abundance of Viktor's work has led his family to create a website where he sells his paintings and prints. Additionally, he tells his story and displays his work on multiple social media platforms while raising Autism awareness.