

## Arts4All Florida Student of the Month March 2021

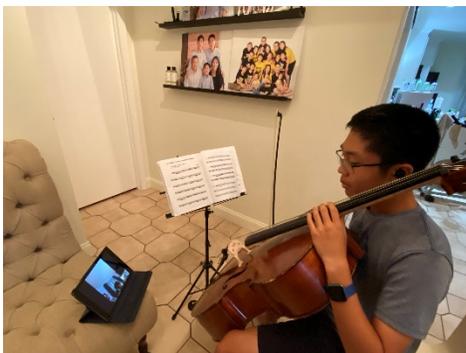


*Imagine Peace in your Hands by Sally Tarhini*

11-year-old **Sally Tarhini** attends Mabry Elementary in Tampa and was nominated by her art teacher, Nanette Dailey. Nanette writes, “Sally has come from ‘I can't do this’ to ‘look at what I did Mrs. Dailey! I am an Artist!’ and she truly is!”

Arts4All Florida was impressed by Sally’s artistic and personal growth amidst the learning setbacks due to the Covid-19 pandemic. When Sally first started taking art classes with Nanette last year, she was timid and unsure of her ability to complete the projects assigned. With consistent encouragement from her teachers, little by little Sally made progress and changed her outlook on what she previously thought were impossible feats. Today, she is the first student in the Zoom session and is usually the last one out.

These improvements in art class have also translated to other subject areas. Sally’s exceptional education resource teacher, Ms. Kado, has attested to her significant reading and language development in less than a year. In Nanette’s words, “Sally has made me a dreamer again that anything is possible with hope, love, and trust.” Like many of us in education, Nanette believes that “[art] is a magical thing that heals the heart and encourages the soul to grow!” Sally’s collage painting *Imagine Peace in your Hands* exemplifies the young artist’s growing talent as well as the unifying power the arts can exude.



16-year-old **Adam Vuong** is a skilled cellist who attends TERRA Environmental Research Institute, a magnet secondary school in Miami. He was nominated by Michelle Sanchez, an administrator at the Greater Miami Youth Symphony. She writes, “I have known Adam Vuong for about three years now and I am amazed at his progress both as a musician and a person... Watching his growth has been incredible to witness and he is so deserving of recognition.”

Arts4All Florida was wowed by the emotion Adam conveys through his playing. When he started working with Michelle, Adam stayed towards the back of the cello section. Since then, he has grown in both skill and confidence earning him the role of principal cellist. With his improvements, Adam has grown in his musical abilities and leadership skills. Adam gravitates to the performing arts as an outlet for self-expression and creative interests, akin to many students on the Autism Spectrum.

According to Michelle, “Adam always volunteers his time for outside performances” whether for the Concert for a Cause, a program to raise awareness for cervical cancer research, or other events with GMYS. In the Summer of 2020, GMYS switched to virtual learning and began a peer tutoring program.

Adam was one of the few Symphony-level students selected to help younger ones have individualized mentorship with someone more seasoned. Although this was Adam's first time giving lessons, "he was able to form meaningful relationships with the younger students he maintains to this day." This mentorship experience will surely help Adam in his development as a budding musician. As the great Phil Collins has said, "In learning you will teach and in teaching you will learn."