



Andrii Padkovskyi, Violin

Andrii Padkovskyi, a 14-year-old violinist from Lviv, Ukraine, was born into a family steeped in creativity. Raised among musicians and artists, Andrii's early exposure to music sparked a passion that would shape his life. Starting violin lessons at age six in a specialized music school, Andrii's talent quickly became evident. He honed his skills and participated in competitions both at home and abroad,

showcasing his abilities in Ukraine, Poland, and the Czech Republic. When the war in Ukraine forced his family to relocate to the Czech Republic and later Florida, Andrii continued to pursue music, finding solace in performing with a local youth orchestra. In Florida, he crossed paths with Donna Smith, a local violinist and pianist, who became his mentor. Andrii became involved in various orchestras, including the Illyrian Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Andi Zdrava, whose support and inspiration played a pivotal role in Andrii's musical development, marking the beginning of his orchestral journey. Andrii's dedication soon earned him a place in the Sarasota Youth Orchestra and String Con Brio, led by Maestro Kenneth Bowermeister and Monica Sirocchi. Grateful for the opportunity to further his craft, Andrii credits these experiences as instrumental in his growth as a musician. In addition to these orchestral engagements, Andrii auditioned for and participated in the All-State Orchestra in 2024 in Tampa, where he proudly represented his school, Laurel Nokomis School, alongside his orchestra teacher, Amanda Bauman. In 2024, under the guidance of his private violin teacher, Marcus Ratzenboeck, Andrii competed in the Sarasota Orchestra Young Artists Competition, where he won first place in Junior Strings. This achievement marked a significant milestone in Andrii's musical journey, showcasing his exceptional talent and commitment. In June 2024, Andrii attended the Florida State University String Orchestra Camp. He was concertmaster of the orchestra, and selected to perform the Mozart Violin Concerto in G Major for the Honors Solo Recital. Andrii is a recipient of the 2023 and 2024 Venice Musical Scholarship for music lessons, sponsored by the Pat Gallagher Memorial Fund, with Jack Gallagher personally overseeing it. Andrii would like to thank Michael Bodnyk for the opportunity to perform for the St. Armands Key Lutheran Church.