

Amonte Adams has been immersed in a sea of notes and rhythms since he was born.

From listening to his father, Armondo, play or sing to pounding on a drum pad as early as 3 years old to attending countless church functions, music has been a teacher, healer and motivator.

Now in the seventh grade at New Hope Middle School, Amonte sees music as an inspiration. In addition to playing the drums in two churches and in two bands, Amonte plays in the school band, at Fellowship of Christian Athletes events and cuts drum tracks for other musicians.

“I just love playing drums. Period,” Adams said.

Adams’ love for the drums helped him earn one of six nominations for Youth Musician of the Year for the 2024 Golden Triangle Music Awards on Saturday, March 9, at the Pearl River Resort in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Freddie L. Poindexter, a member of the world-renowned Mississippi Mass Choir, hosted by The Dream Centre of America, founded the Golden Triangle Music Awards. Local businesses throughout the Golden Triangle sponsor the event.

The Golden Triangle Music Awards is one of the largest fundraisers for the Dream Centre of America. The GTA Awards’ mission is to serve at-risk families (youth) by developing creativity and engagement through the Arts, including music, dance, spoken word, public speaking and more. The program also focuses on instrument skills development, audio engineering, theatrical arts, as well as lighting, video walls and live show management.

For Adams, the nomination is a dream come true and another step in his maturation as a musician.

“It feels good,” said Adams, who is 14. “I have attended the show throughout the years, and now I am looking forward to walk across the stage to get the award.”

Amonte said he would like to become a professional musician and to have his own live band. He said he enjoys country, rhythm and blues and gospel music. For now, though, Amonte plays in Armondo Adams’ band, Redemption, at Redemption Worship Center in Aliceville, Alabama, and at Kingdom Life Ministry in Columbus. He also plays in the band Apostle Alex and Revolution, which is nominated for a Golden Triangle Music Award.

Amonte said his father helped him develop his love for music. From an early age, Amonte said he accompanied his father when he played in his group and in church. His passion grew from an initial drum pad to his first set of drums when he was 8 or 9 years old.

Today, Amonte has a high hat, snare, foot and one cymbal in his room. He said he will get other pieces to give him a full set so he can record music for people who contact him.

Eventually, Amonte said he would like to learn to play bass guitar. That might help set the stage for him to ask his sister, Chloe, a freshman at New Hope High who plays clarinet and is a singer, to form a band. Chloe said she would be up for that if Amonte asks.

“I love music real bad,” Adams said. “That is what motivates me every day.”

Amonte said he has cut drum tracks for other people for several years. He also works at the Trotter Convention Center in downtown Columbus. At home, his room has speakers, a computer and a mixer so he has easy access to recording music.

Amonte also has traveled to Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina to play music. He said his “uncle”, Anderson Williams, used to take him places for music and that exposure whetted his appetite to

learn even more. Amonte also has provided technical assistance to Williams at shows, concerts, weddings and events.

Amonte thanked his parents, family, godparents, Anderson and Dashia Williams, and teachers for everything they have contributed to his development and overall well-being.

“Amonte is a student blessed with multiple talents,” New Hope Middle School teacher / coach Brad Butler said. “He has the ability to make the people around him feel important and an infectious smile that puts those around him in a good mood.”

Said New Hope Middle School teacher / coach Derrick Beckom, “Amonte has been a respectful young man in my time being one of his coaches. He has been careful to say yes sir and no sir in our conversations. Amonte has the ability to motivate his peers with his presence in the room. He can also be a vocal leader at times. He has a bright future and lots of potential to achieve what he works for.”

Tickets for this year’s Golden Triangle Music Awards are available at www.GTAAwards.com. You also can vote for the nominees by going to that address.