

## **An Exploration of the Creative Soul Through Music**

### **Artist Statement Thomas Colvin III**

There is an entity that lives inside me that has always spoken through my work. For nearly four decades it has expressed itself in paint, charcoal, and pastel -- always through a solitary figure, always reaching for one thing above all else. Not admiration. Not technique. *Feeling.*

This series was born from a single vision and grew, not by plan but by necessity. The image of a musician, eyes fixed, guarding something the world can not touch. His music. His art. His soul. Each successive image will uncover a different layer of the unique relationship between me and my gift.

Each figure, each instrument, each solitary individual becomes another conversation with myself. About myself. A deeper look into the human manifestation of the being.

*An Exploration of the Creative Soul Through Music* is not about instruments or performance. These self portraits are symbolic statements -- a representation of my gift and the private relationship I hold with it. The work I create through it represents what I guard most deeply and how I choose to share it. What I feel that no one else does. What it means to be invisible in a room full of people yet completely whole.

This series calls me to develop separate images using a toothbrush, a palette knife, and chalk pastels. My primary tool, the toothbrush, will give me the ability to apply color that the viewer's eye mixes optically. The resulting image will be softer, more atmospheric. It is a process that will demand presence. The palette knife images will be liberating. Bold, confident strokes of color applied freely -- less technique driven, yet the spirit of impressionism will be evident in every mark. Of the three mediums, pastels will offer the most liberated approach, allowing me to be as detailed as I choose while also borrowing from the palette knife's freedom of suggesting rather than defining, feeling rather than rendering. Together these three voices serve the same truth, each one chosen not by habit but by intention.

This series is meant to be felt before it is fully ingested. It is my hope that the feeling of it is transferred from one soul to another.