

250 Word Bio - Gibson Mahnke

Gibson Mahnke (b. 2004) is a creator who investigates the intersection between humanity and nature while working to cross genres and pushing sonic boundaries. Originally from Denver, Colorado, Mahnke is a composer, oboist, and percussionist who creates music that brings diverse groups of people together to cultivate experiences of hope and joy. As both a composer and active performer, his work looks to challenge the role of music in our society by striving for performer-focused music that breaks down the traditional performer-to-audience barrier to create shared musical experiences. Mahnke has worked alongside several ensembles, including the Boulder Philharmonic and the University of Southern California Symphony Orchestra, as well as chamber groups and performers, such as Transient Canvas, the Mivos Quartet, and cellist Gabriel Cabezas. Mahnke also works extensively with dancers and choreographers as he looks to promote more cross-disciplinary commissions and collaborations within movement spaces. Additionally, Mahnke is deeply committed to spreading his love of music with younger musicians, currently serving as the Composer in Residence with the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra. Mahnke previously studied composition with Veronika Krausas, Camae Ayewa (Moor Mother), Brian Head, Sean Friar, and Max Wolpert. Mahnke is in the fourth year of his Bachelor in Composition at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music where he studies composition with Ted Hearne. Alongside composition, he performs as an oboist with USC's New Music Ensemble ("EDGE") and plays in an electro-acoustic duo with fellow composer Evan Williams.