

250 Word Bio - Gibson Mahnke

Gibson Mahnke (b. 2004) is a creator who investigates the intersection between humanity and nature through spirituality-driven creative practice. 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 such as Transient Canvas, Ensemble PHACE, and the Mivos Quartet. More recently, Mahnke has begun to work increasingly with dancers and choreographers and looks to promote more cross-disciplinary commissions and collaborations within movement spaces. Mahnke is also deeply committed to spreading his love of music with younger musicians and currently serves as the Composer in Residence with the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra. Mahnke previously studied composition with Camae Ayewa (Dennis), Brian Head, Sean Friar, Brian Ebert, and Max Wolpert as well as oboe with Maureen Farkash. Mahnke is in the third year of his Bachelor in Composition at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music where he studies composition with Veronika Krausas. Alongside composition, he studies oboe with Joel Timm as well as performs with USC's New Music Ensemble ("EDGE").