

## Artist Statement - Gibson Mahnke

I am a creator who investigates the intersectionality of humanity and nature through spirituality-driven creative practice. My compositions work to bring diverse groups of people together to cultivate experiences of hope and joy while also exploring broader ideas of human existence and spiritual consciousness. After years as an oboist and percussionist, I look to challenge the role of music in our society by striving for performer-focused music that breaks down the traditional performer-to-audience barrier in order to create shared musical experiences. My current compositional process highlights the collaborative consciousness of a diverse group of artists as I work to create art that traverses genre, time, and space in a never-ending search for creative authenticity. I also work to spread and share my art with younger performers and audience members as I strongly believe that they are the future of the arts. At the core, I am a seeker; a guide leading others through an ever-changing sonic landscape.