

My academic and creative journey has been deeply shaped by a diverse array of cultural, educational, and professional experiences that continually inform my perspectives and pursuits. From an early age, I found myself navigating the intersections of music, technology, and education, guided by a desire to push boundaries and connect across disciplines. These motivations have led me to pursue graduate studies, where I aim to further expand my scholar-artist identity while contributing to the evolving landscape of music and technology.

Growing up in Southern California, my early education at the Orange County High School of the Arts provided a foundation for my understanding of the arts as both a collaborative and individual pursuit. It was here that I developed a strong appreciation for diversity in artistic expression, surrounded by peers who challenged me to think critically and creatively. This formative experience laid the groundwork for my academic and artistic trajectory, which continued through my undergraduate studies at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. Neither of my parents are college graduates, and coming from a familial background without higher education, I've been driven by a deep-seated desire to break through barriers and create opportunities that might have otherwise seemed out of reach. This motivation, rooted in my family's experiences, has inspired me to push myself toward higher education as a means of personal transformation and success.

My drive to succeed was further developed through my professional experiences, particularly during my time in Mumbai, India. I had the unique opportunity of serving as the Head of Department - Guitar Program at True School of Music, a private music college, for three years. This role was as much a lesson in cross-cultural exchange as it was in leadership and pedagogy. Teaching in a vastly different cultural and academic environment broadened my

perspective on the role of music education and deepened my commitment to fostering inclusivity through my work. My time in Mumbai also highlighted the importance of adaptability and the creative possibilities that emerge when diverse influences converge.

Returning to academia for my master's degree, I embraced my dual identity as a performer and scholar. My master's thesis, *Producer as Performer*, examines music production as an act of performance, framed by themes of bodily expression, technological mediation, and perception. This work is an extension of my ongoing commitment to exploring how technology and human creativity interact in ways that reshape traditional performance paradigms.

Throughout my career, I have sought to bridge the gap between academic inquiry and practical application, bringing theoretical concepts into real-world contexts. Whether through leading ensembles, collaborating on interdisciplinary projects, or mentoring students, I strive to create environments where innovation and inclusivity thrive. My upcoming role as an instructor of Digital Audio Production at the University of Central Missouri reflects my dedication to fostering a new generation of musicians and technologists, encouraging them to engage critically with their craft and the world around them.

Pursuing a graduate degree is a continuation of my lifelong pursuit to challenge conventional boundaries in music and technology while fostering environments that value diversity and inclusion. My personal history, shaped by cross-cultural experiences, leadership roles, and an ongoing engagement with scholarship and performance, has prepared me to contribute meaningfully to both the academic and artistic communities I seek to serve.