

Jonathan Ollendorf Bio

I am a composer and performer from Boston, Massachusetts. I'm currently studying composition, musicology and ethnomusicology at Oberlin Conservatory. In my music, I try to create narratives through rhythmic tension between layers and structural tension based around organization of standardized building blocks of music. Recently, I have begun to study many different types of percussion-based music styles from around the world and have become quite absorbed with learning how to construct and manipulate rhythmic patterns both in those styles and within my own music. I am committed to learning about non-Western musics with the goal of making these musics more accessible around the world and dismantling musical hierarchies rather than to better myself or find new ideas for my composition. Most importantly, I am interested in working to build community through music and utilizing music as a mechanism for making connections with other people and dismantling genre boundaries rather than committing myself completely to personal musical and compositional growth. I always try to hold on to the fascination and excitement that I feel when composing and playing, because my goal as a composer is to be able to instill that fascination in other people.