

Abbreviated Artist Statement — Keshav Batish, 6/24/23

I have come to recognize my life (with)in music as a recognition of relationship. We gather to invite sound and once it arrives, we are tasked to direct it in relation with each other (horizontal) and the universe (vertical). I come from a family of musicians that instill within me a value of gathering as prayer. When I sing my song, I hear Their partials resonate within me. It is because of our relationship that we are who we are. I cannot divorce myself from where I grew-up (famil(y)ar/context/time-harmony) however, through understanding my position (tonality-beat), I assert a world view that encompasses my individual values. We are nothing without our family, our resonance gathering us to travel across and in parallel. That is the music and its relations.

Whether it be through the filter of rhythm, melody, or harmony, I do not see a way forward without recognition of lineage which, like tradition, is in constant motion. That is why I say I am a sitar power person, a chromodal person, a transcommunal person. I endeavor to facilitate systems of dialogue that yield a deepening of relationship. To me, the music is an expression of networks of trust—an experiential knowledge, that continues to (re)form. As the music continues to take shape, I am grateful for your ears and hearts to join in a divine listening, together.