

Naomi Nakanishi is a dynamic pianist, improviser, and composer, currently based in Brooklyn, NY. Their debut EP “Hear Me Speak” is a striking portrait of patient lyricism, playful improvisation, and through-composed melodies - a nod to their love for contemporary jazz and long-form poetry. As a bandleader and side-person, they have performed at notable venues including Roulette Intermedium, The Kennedy Center, Bar Bayeux, Dizzy’s Club, and Birdland. In 2023, Naomi was commissioned to write an original film score for the film, “Oath of the Sword,” performed live at the Academy Museum in Los Angeles, CA. They were selected for the 2023 Mutual Mentorship for Musician’s fifth cohort and the 2021 Betty Carter Jazz Ahead residency. Naomi leads a piano trio called *Whimsy* and a bass-less quartet exploring free improvisation and original compositions. They seek to continue learning from multigenerational and diverse coalitions, curating more culturally rich and interactive experiences along their musical journey.