

 HANCHER AUDITORIUM

GABRIEL KAHANE

HANCHER'S 2025-2026 COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

MAGNIFICENT BIRD

COMMUNITY DINNER

BOOK OF TRAVELERS

HANCHER UP CLOSE

Sunday, February 22, 2026
4:00 p.m.

IOWA

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GABRIEL KAHANE

HANCHER'S 2025-2026 COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium, the University of Iowa

GABRIEL KAHANE, vocals, guitar, piano

PROGRAM

4:00 p.m. *Magnificent Bird*

5.30 p.m. Buffet-style community dinner

7:00 p.m. *Book of Travelers*

ARTIST'S NOTE

He who attempts to act
and do things for others or for the world
without deepening his own self-understanding,
freedom, integrity and capacity to love
will not have anything to give others.
He will communicate to them nothing
but the contagion of his own obsessions,
his aggressiveness, his ego-centered ambitions,
his delusions about ends and means,
his doctrinaire prejudices and ideas...

We have more power at our disposal today
than we have ever had, and yet
we are more alienated and estranged
from the inner ground of meaning
and of love than we have ever been.

— Thomas Merton
Contemplation in a World of Action

GABRIEL KAHANE

Gabriel Kahane is a musician, writer, and storyteller.

Highlights of the 2025–2026 season include collaborations with Roomful of Teeth, Attacca Quartet, and Jeffrey Kahane; conducting debuts with Santa Fe Pro Music and the San Antonio Philharmonic; composer-in-residence posts with the University of Iowa and the Charlotte Symphony; the world premiere of a new set of songs at the 92nd Street Y; and the Carnegie Hall premiere of *If love will not swing wide the gates*, a clarinet concerto written for Anthony McGill.

An avid theater artist, Kahane opened last season at Playwrights Horizons with the off-Broadway debut of two solo pieces, *Magnificent Bird* and *Book of Travelers*, the latter of which chronicled the composer's 8,980-mile railway journey in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election. His album and stage spectacle, *The Ambassador*, was produced at the BAM Next Wave Festival in 2014, under the direction of Tony-winner John Tiffany. A musical, *February House*, written with the playwright Seth Bockley, received its New York premiere at the Public Theater in 2012. In 2018, Kahane made his Broadway debut with the score for Kenneth Lonergan's play *The Waverly Gallery*, starring Elaine May, Lucas Hedges, and Michael Cera.

Kahane is known for tackling politically thorny subject matter



Photo: Jason Quigley

in his work with subtlety and grace, perhaps most notably in his orchestral oratorio, *emergency shelter intake form*, which addresses economic inequality through the lens of homelessness and housing insecurity, and has been heard from London to New York to Chicago to San Francisco and beyond. He is also increasingly productive as a writer, with prose appearing in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Via the newsletter “Words and Music,” Kahane publishes bi-weekly essays on a variety of topics, all of which can be accessed at gabrielkahane.substack.com.

Gabriel's wide-ranging discography includes five albums as a singer-songwriter, several orchestral projects, a disc of chamber music

GABRIEL KAHANE

(with the string quartet Brooklyn Rider), as well as various other collaborative albums. He has worked with an array of artists spanning the aesthetic gamut, from Phoebe Bridgers, Paul Simon, Sylvan Esso, Chris Thile, and Sufjan Stevens, to the Danish String Quartet, Caroline Shaw, and Pekka Kuusisto, with whom he plays as

the duo Council. The recipient of a 2021 Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Kahane relocated to Portland, Oregon in the spring of 2020, where he lives with his family and serves as Creative Chair of the Oregon Symphony, a post he has held since 2019.

DINNER MENU

The menu for this evening's community meal draws inspiration from classic American railroad dining car fare.

Gabriel Kahane's Book of Travelers, the final work of the evening, is a musical travelogue born of an 8,980-mile train journey across the United States undertaken in the days following the 2016 presidential election.

Caesar Salad

Waldorf Salad

Fresh Vegetable Medley

Whipped Sour Cream Mashed Potatoes

Salisbury Steak

Pan Seared Salmon Filet with Lemon Dill Butter

Mushroom, White Bean, Tomato Ragu over Polenta

Flourless Chocolate Cake

Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce

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HANCHER'S 2025–2026 SEASON IS DEDICATED TO

WALLY CHAPPELL



Above: Robert Joffrey (left) with Wally Chappell (right) backstage at the original Hancher Auditorium in 1986.

We recently lost a major member of our Hancher family. Former executive director and forever friend Wally Chappell peacefully passed away in April of 2025 in Iowa City at the age of 83. His incredible wife Karen was by his side. Wally was a leader at Hancher Auditorium and the University of Iowa, a force within the field of the arts, and an unmatched champion for culture in Iowa City. He was full of love for people, passion for experiencing the world (art, food, adventure!), and always advocating for his community.

Our giants cannot be replaced, but they can be remembered with awe, joy, and sadness all at once. We can carry forward the values and inspiration they left behind. Our Hancher family will always build upon the incredible legacy left for us by Wally. He is a hero in our minds and his spirit is forever in our hearts.


25/26