



California State University, Sacramento
School of Music
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An Open Letter to the Students of the School of Music:

On behalf of the Sacramento State School of Music, we declare that we are in complete solidarity with our students and the entire Sac State community in our sadness and outrage at the murder of George Floyd and the endless list of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) who have died at the hands of police and others in our country. We stand united against the oppression and dehumanization that have become institutionalized by the government and criminal justice system. We commend and support the Black Lives Matter movement and stand unified with all BIPOC including those who identify as LGBTQ+, those who are non-citizens, and those with disabilities. We encourage all faculty, staff, and students to reflect deeply on how inequity has been historically entrenched in the systems and structures of our government and institutions – including within higher education – through majority privilege. We seek ever greater equity and will strive to expand access, broaden diversity, increase inclusivity, and foster an environment of mutual respect within the School of Music and across our campus community.

We have always believed in the transformative power of music and its ability to heal. We wish to summon that power as part of the formal and informal workings of the School of Music to educate our students but also to provide solace to the wider community and to serve as a beacon of inspiration to all as we collectively denounce and renounce racism in all its forms.

We therefore commit to ongoing work within the Sac State School of Music to learn and practice inclusiveness through the following initiatives:

- We shall hold listening sessions with students to learn from you about ways we can improve our culture and educational programs. We shall take seriously your concerns and suggestions and ask that you hold us accountable for real progress.
- We are in the process of forming an Anti-Racism Task Force comprised of faculty who will serve as a consultative body and will meet with student representatives to consider and promote diversity and inclusivity in our curriculum and all aspects of our public activities.
- We will take on the serious tasks of educating all of our students to understand the effects of systemic racism and help them to commit to the work of inclusiveness.
- We will consider revisions to our School Mission and Values Statements to overtly identify our commitment to BIPOC students and our role in the cause of social justice.
- We will post this letter on the School of Music website and distribute it through social media.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the School of Music, we stand in solidarity with our diverse student population; you are the strength and inspiration for the work we do.

Stephen Blumberg, Incoming Director
Ernie M. Hills, Outgoing Director