

Statement of Solidarity

To our Preparatory Music community~

Today we recognize Juneteenth, the liberation of Black people from slavery on June 19, 1865 (a full two and one-half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation), and the continuing and urgent need for racial justice in our society.

This year's Juneteenth is particularly poignant in light of nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism, seen most recently in the tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and now, Rayshard Brooks.

Preparatory Music faculty is in discussions about our role as music educators and the work to do to create an anti-racist community. Following are thoughts we'd like to share with you, our PMD community.



Preparatory Music

Celebrating 50 years in music education

The swell of brave voices fighting for racial justice in our society is bringing us hope and motivating action at Preparatory Music. Being part of the systemic change that we wish to see means that every one of us is called upon to be involved in supporting and standing by all of our fellow community members. As faculty, we are prepared to do our part to contribute toward lasting change and a society that values Black lives.

Our teachers are educating themselves through discussion with one another and loved ones, as well as Black perspectives by way of books and other media, reflecting on and confronting our role in perpetuating discrimination. Our responsibility in creating an inclusive music school requires us to commit to building programs and seeking repertoire for our students that reflects the diverse identities and interests of our community. It also requires us to identify and uproot systemic racism in all its forms.

In addition to critical self-reflection, our community of educators is meeting regularly so that we can create a culture that facilitates the social change we urgently need: we are committed to centering our students even more deeply in our instruction by being responsive and conscientious in choosing repertoire that engages our students, and being informed about the history and background of our choices.

We value hearing from you, our families, with honesty about what you wish to experience as students and members of the Preparatory Music community.

We thank you for entrusting your children's musical journey to us and welcome your ideas. May music bring us closer during this time of transformation.

Sincerely,
Katherine Baird, Director