



Dear *IL-ACDA* Members,

The IL-ACDA Executive Committee strongly affirms the position of ACDA, "**On the Murder of George Floyd and the Impacts of Racism**" that follows. It is the intention of IL-ACDA leadership to undertake a number of initiatives in the near future to work toward improving the positive values of diversity, inclusion and equity in the choral field in Illinois. We look forward to engaging our membership in active measures so that we who lead choirs and those who sing in them can do our part to encourage positive social change in our communities through our practices of music and music education. Moreover, we know that we have much to learn and we will be better and stronger as we work together to accomplish these goals!

We are in the process of creating a task-force or standing committee to address the needs in our state and we will be announcing more details and plans at our virtual conference, *InTreat*, on June 24-25. Eugene Rogers, formerly from Illinois and former co-chair of the National ACDA Diversity Committee will speak to us about this important topic to help us consider how to move forward in Illinois.

Your *IL-ACDA* Executive Board: Jeff Wilson, Lee Kesselman, Laura Coster, Paul Nielsen, and Paul Laprade

ACDA statement on the Murder of George Floyd and the Impacts of Racism

ACDA mourns for each and every Black life shortened by the individual and institutional racism that plagues our communities and country. We acknowledge the hurt, anger, and frustration that many of our members, particularly our members of color, are feeling as America grapples with the impacts of systemic racism and police brutality in the wake of George Floyd's murder.

The murder of George Floyd is a current tragedy that serves as a reminder of the countless named and unnamed Black lives lost unlawfully, unethically, inhumanely, and of the history of racism and threat that continues to diminish the dignity of Black, Brown, and many other people of color. It calls us to reflect on that history and the causes of that racism and how to EFFECT the change that must happen to make the world just, equitable, and safe, so that the crimes against George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor and all the named and unnamed Black Americans never happen again.

We further acknowledge that the history of ACDA mirrors that of the history of America. ACDA accepts its own responsibility in aiding and abetting racism in the past, whether it was through devaluing the contributions of our Black colleagues, or discouraging their participation, or by not intentionally creating a space for them to flourish. ACDA will engage, listen to, and learn from Black colleagues so that it can be part of creating a new and more inclusive future for all. Then we can stand and support and together:

“Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.”

Here is a link to the Lift Every Voice and Sing clip:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLNd3pP31dA&feature=youtu.be>

Here is the link to the full video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acIThEgKja8&feature=youtu.be>