



CMEA Statement on Black Lives Matter

June 15, 2020

Colorado Music Educators Association affirms that **Black Lives Matter**. We are deeply saddened by the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others who have suffered. CMEA condemns any actions of racism and intolerance due to the color of one's skin.

The purpose of our organization is to promote and improve music education in the state of Colorado. As teachers, it is our responsibility to include and support each child and young person in finding their voice using music to share their experience. As stated by the National Association for Music Education in its statement "[What We Believe: Black Lives Matter](#)," "...we know that music is important in student lives—and we know that listening to music and making music are things that people do when they are experiencing strong emotions, including grief and anger."

Change starts with us, as teachers, in the music classroom and as an organization with our policies. Our organization seeks to lift the voices and experiences of Black people, Brown people, Indigenous people, People of Color, and other marginalized communities. CMEA will immediately initiate a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force to advise the organization on ways to support music teachers in providing safe and inclusive spaces, developing intercultural understandings, and recognizing inequities, both in our classrooms and our professional organization.

CMEA is committed to listening, growing, and learning to ensure all people see themselves, hear themselves, and find meaning in music education.

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