

Words are not enough. Black Lives Matter and so do our actions!

As the Minnesota State Band we have an obligation to speak up against systemic injustice and racism. But more importantly to take action against such issues.

"The murder of George Floyd at the hand of former Minneapolis police officers has precipitated a profound cultural and societal shift that started in a community we represent.

In order for the Minnesota State Band to be part of our state's vibrant future, we must strive to support and amplify voices in our communities that have been suppressed, distorted, and silenced.

The Minnesota State Band will use its resources to create awareness and promote the need for racial and gender equity - ranging from the way we conduct ourselves to the music we perform, specifically on how we support black and indigenous members of our band and community, as well as ensuring awareness of specific needs regarding gender equity.

How will we do this? The following is a start:

- We will listen by inviting members in our band to share viewpoints that can help the Minnesota State Band craft an equitable and just future for our organization and the communities we serve.
- Add to or amend our mission statement to include specific messaging about representing the bountiful communities of Minnesota with respect and celebration for our culturally rich indigenous and black communities. Update or create policies to create inclusiveness and acceptance of races, creeds, cultures, genders, gender identities, ages; update or create policies non-discrimination policies.
- Addressing the issue with our membership in a meaningful way by acknowledging that racial inequity is everywhere - including in the music that we play - and taking steps to make our music selection, performances, and membership more inclusive.
- Deliberately support musicians and composers that support and share our vision.