

Dear Analysis of World Music Interest Group Members,

Our interest group is more than a scholarly group--we are a community. As your co-chairs, we want to be explicit about the values we uphold. We stand in solidarity with the black community and we will not accept race-based hatred. We strive to overcome our complacencies to race-based hierarchies in all aspects of our relationships with others, including in our research, our teaching and in our personal lives.

We grieve the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor and we grieve the fact that it took these deaths and so many others to raise up mass attention to the long and continuing history of black suffering at the hands of institutionalized racism. We believe in the duty to listen to the voices of black community members and to educate ourselves about their realities. These are uncomfortable conversations, but we need to hold them so that we can take steps toward becoming a just and equitable community.

Emails and declarations like this are not enough. Each of us has a responsibility to reflect on how we are perpetuating systems of hegemony and how we can become a part of the change. Let us persevere and push these changes through.

Sincerely,
Chris Stover and Anna Yu Wang

June 3, 2020