

June 5, 2020

The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra continues to grieve for those persons who suffered extensively, unnecessarily, and ultimately lost their lives as a result of hatred, bigotry, and racism that continues to plague the county, particularly the African-American community. Within the last four months, victims included Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor who turned 27 years old on June 5, 2020. The latest victim to experience such hatred was George Floyd who was born in Fayetteville, NC and killed on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020. The FSO is deeply saddened by these recent events and expresses its sincere condolences to members and friends of all of the families. We are horribly distraught by the actions of those persons responsible and are increasingly aware of the distresses, hostilities, and agonies experienced by the African-American community.

We stand firmly in the belief that all forms of racism and bigotry have no place in our organization, community, nor other communities. As the leading musical resource in the Fayetteville North Carolina region, we express our commitment to provide experiences that beautify the human spirit and honor collective humanity. Moving forward, we will continue to exert our collective efforts in supporting diversity and inclusion by providing quality entertainment to all persons throughout the local and surrounding regions.

It is our hope that everyone will take the time to look deep within their own souls and confront and uproot their own personal prejudices and biases. We invite all members of the community to unite with us in an effort to combat not only hatred, bigotry, and racism, but all behaviors that are ill-conducive to harmony, peace, and love. **TOGETHER WE STAND!!!**

Dr. Jesse L. Hughes, Jr.  
Executive Director

Dr. Stefan Sanders  
Music Director

FSO Staff

FSO Board of Directors