June 4, 2020

We at the Old Town School of Folk Music share in the outrage over the senseless murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and too many others.

We stand in solidarity with the protestors, activists, and advocates who are working to end this enduring pattern of systemic racism and abuse of power.

We recommit to the work of dismantling systemic racism.

The events of the past week have brought into sharp focus the pain and injustice that Black people have suffered for centuries. The ongoing systemic abuse of the members of our society is more than a blot on our history, it is woven into the fabric of every era.

We also acknowledge that there are members of our Old Town School community who are suffering from these injustices, and we recognize that we can and must do more to make our School and our community more open, diverse, equitable, and attuned to the urgent need for change.

To that end, in the coming weeks and months, we will be taking actionable steps to address our own shortcomings and to begin the process of healing and growth. We are in the process of creating an Equity Task Force that will help us to evaluate our hiring and recruiting processes, our educational programming, our presentation of performing artists, and to develop plans to further diversify our community and leadership.

We hope that you will join us in this next step on our journey and that you will join us in standing with all those who demand that our institutions of government, culture, and commerce reflect what we all believe: Black Lives Matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Newcomb
CEO
Old Town School of Folk Music

Rob Ospalik
Chairman, Board of Directors
Old Town School of Folk Music