

# Creating A Culture of Belonging In Your Choral Program

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1. What is belonging?
2. Getting to Know You/Me
  - Fostering social capital/connections
  - My Many Identities Exercise
3. “Rehearsal”: When Thunder Comes by Mari Esabel Valverde
  - Warm Ups: Building connection through listening
  - Hook through text
  - Text analysis
    - Who is the composer?
    - Who is the lyricist?
    - How does the music relate to the text?
    - What is the overall message of the text?
    - Who are the social justice advocates mentioned in the text?
    - What power structures are inherent in each of the advocates’ stories?
  - Singing with new meaning/transformation
    - What does this message mean for us as a choral community and perhaps our greater community that will come to our concert?
    - What does this text mean to me?
    - How does it affect the way I sing?
  - Exit card: Questions/concerns/connections
4. Reflecting on Mock Rehearsal
  - Dialogue
    - Meaningful/relevant repertoire
    - Problem-posing through lens of critical pedagogy
      - Who are you?
      - Who am I?
      - What might we become together?
    - Guidelines for sensitive topics - University of Michigan  
<https://crlt.umich.edu/publinks/generalguidelines>
  - Inclusive language/practice
    - Pronouns
    - Section names
    - Ensemble Names
    - Uniforms

## 5. Resources

- SU Summer online course - *Fostering Inclusive Culture in Your Choral Ensemble*
- *Inclusive Pedagogy for Choral Directors*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, by Stephen Sieck
- *Cultural Appropriation: From Culture Stealing to Culture Sharing* - Chorus America/Holley/Dilworth
- Conductor, Educator, Consultant, Dr. Derrick Fox - <https://www.drerrickfox.com>
- ACDA Diversity Initiatives Committee - Arreon Harley-Emerson, chair
- Inclusive Repertoire Resources
  - Empowering Silenced Voices Database - [www.chorosynthesis.org/esvdatabase](http://www.chorosynthesis.org/esvdatabase)
  - Composer Diversity Database and Guidelines - [www.composerdiversity.com](http://www.composerdiversity.com)
  - *Beyond Elijah Rock: The Non-Idiomatic Choral Music of Black Composers*, Dr. Marques Garrett - <https://www.mlagmusic.com/research>
  - Justice Choir Songbook - <https://www.justicechoir.org>

