

Creating Connections Through Choral Music of Social Consciousness

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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 for 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 course - *Fostering Inclusive Culture in Your Choral Ensemble*
- Conductor, Educator, Consultant, Dr. Derrick Fox - <https://www.drderickfox.com>
- *Inclusive Pedagogy for Choral Directors*, 2nd ed, by Stephen Sieck
- *Cultural Appropriation: From Culture Stealing to Culture Sharing* - Chorus America/Holley/Dilworth
- ACDA Diversity Initiatives Committee - Arreon Harley-Emerson, chair
- Eastern ACDA Reading Sessions
- Inclusive Repertoire Resources
 - Empowering Silenced Voices Database - www.chorosynthesis.org/esvdatabase
 - Composer Diversity Database and Guidelines - 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>

