



Picture from Prof. Kimberly McCord's music school "Just Accessible Music" in Connecticut

## **Weaving Equity and Social Justice in Music Education in Times of Social Crises**

July 30 at 12pm EDT / 7pm in Finland. Duration: 1 hour 15 min. Online event.  
Organized by Finland Center Foundation, New York, USA.

Registration:

<https://www.finlandcenter.org/events>

### **What is the meaning of music in society, and the social responsibility of music educators and musicians in times of crises?**

This panel discussion involving music educators in the USA and Finland examines how music education practices and institutions could be developed to advance equity and social justice in contemporary educational systems and societies that confront global crises. First, the panel presents a theoretical framework on the topic and asks if policy thinking can be used for conceptualizing action towards music educational equity and social justice more widely. From the intersecting perspectives of (dis)ability and ethnicity, the panel then presents innovative pedagogical practices developed and applied by music educators in the USA and Finland. Future approaches in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic (dis)ability- and ethnicity-related injustices are also explored.

In summary, the panel raises the following question: In what ways can music education professionals react and proact to the future after COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter protests? The panel is equally directed at music educators and musicians working in a variety of contexts and at other professionals in related fields of education. The general public interested in the potential of music and music education in society is welcome to join the discussion.



## PANELISTS



Kimberly McCord is Professor Emerita of Music Education at Illinois State University and adjunct professor at New York University and at the University of Bridgeport. She was an International Society for Music Education (ISME) Board member, founder and first chair of the Jazz Special Interest Group, and is the past chair of the ISME Commission on Music in Special Education, Music Therapy and Music Medicine. She founded and was the first chair of the National Association for Music Education Special Research Interest Group on Children with Exceptionalities. McCord's books include *Exceptional Music Pedagogy for Children with Exceptionalities* with Deborah VanderLinde and *Teaching the Postsecondary Music Student with Disabilities* published by Oxford University Press. She now teaches children and adults with disabilities in Connecticut.



Dr. Joyce McCall was appointed to the faculty of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in 2018. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses including transformative topics in music education, social transformation, technology, and music, social foundations in music education, and jazz methods. Her research—positioned within the context of frameworks like critical race theory and double consciousness theory—centers on how race, class, and culture impact educational equity in music education. Additionally, she examines how certain pedagogies such as culturally relevant teaching influences possibilities to engage among minoritized racial populations in the music classroom and beyond. Her latest book chapter, "Speak No Evil: Talking Race as an African American in Music Education," has served as a critical tool in music toward empowering scholars of color and inspiring anti-racist work.



Kenard L. Chambers (b. 1991) is a Black queer musician and teaching artist from Chicago, Illinois. A Columbia College Chicago alumnus with a B.A. in Vocal Performance, he holds a Master of Arts in Music Education from New York University. His thesis research examines social inequalities faced within higher education music programs at Predominately White Institutions (PWIs). Focusing on themes of mentorship, microaggressions, and professional legitimacy, his work engages existing literature arguing for African American inclusion in higher ed music faculty, as well as exploring issues faced by Black American professors within and beyond the classroom. Chambers seeks to further his research through doctoral studies.



Nancy Brocker is currently in her seventh year teaching elementary general music at Westfield Community School in Algonquin, Illinois. She graduated from Illinois State University with a Music Education major and English Education minor in 2013, and obtained her master's degree in Education Policy, Organization & Leadership with a focus in Global Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2018. She has received grants to teach and organize concerts for individuals with exceptionalities in her community and was awarded a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to research inclusive teaching methods used at Resonaari Music Centre in Helsinki, Finland in 2013-2014.



## CHAIRS



Sanna Kivijärvi is a doctoral researcher and university teacher at Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki. Her dissertation by publication examines the approximation of micro- and macro-level education policies by analyzing an innovation for educational equity, *Figurenotes (Kuvionuotit)*, from both pedagogical and educational policy perspectives. In addition to her doctoral research, Sanna Kivijärvi has published several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on accessibility and equity issues in the Finnish music education system and beyond. During the academic year 2019–2020, she works as a Fulbright visiting scholar at Teachers College, Columbia University and at Steinhardt School of Education, Culture, and Human Development, New York University.



Markus Kaitila (b. Helsinki, 1992) has appeared as a soloist with Joutseno Art Summer, Wratislavia, St. Peter's Festival, Queens College, and Jackson Heights chamber orchestras and One World and New Amsterdam Symphony orchestras, under conductors such as Tong Chen and Charles Neidich. Markus conducted Bach's Keyboard Concerto in E Major from the piano at LeFrak Concert Hall (New York) in 2016, won Bronze Prize in the 2nd WPTA Finland International Piano Competition 2020 and First Prize at the Köhler-Osbahr piano competition (Duisburg) in 2013. Based in NYC since 2013, he is also an active chamber musician and vocal pianist, and a Board Member at Finland Center Foundation.

For more information on the event, please contact:

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