

Dear Members of the Voice Studies Community,

This message has taken too long to reach you, arriving as it does many days after the emergence of public discourse concerning profoundly distressing collective and individual trauma. It is important to state, in light of these and so many other ongoing discussions, that in spite of the best efforts of a great many who are committed to ensuring better ways forward, our societal and institutional systems have not always protected us from direct and indirect harm. Among all that has emerged in this past year as requiring urgent, collective action, it is now time to include this truth: alongside the currents of discourse in this particular moment, there has been – for countless other moments and lifetimes – an unsafe, unjust, unequal and untenable circumstance for about half of the humans who work, play, write, study, teach, travel, perform, parent and eat.

The necessity for my silence until now was not of my choosing.

As we move forward as a community to address all issues of Oppression, know that there are individuals and organizations within our community that intend to assure our mutual safeties and supports.

With this in mind:

Voice Studies stands in solidarity with the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee and wholly supports its mission: *“The ARAO is committed to fostering an environment where all Faculty of Music students, faculty, and staff feel safe, represented, respected, and valued. Any form of oppression, racism, sexual harassment and violence will not be tolerated. In particular, we will do everything we can do to uphold student safety and security.”*

<https://change.music.utoronto.ca/>

Voice Studies continues to affirm its commitment to the principles outlined and the help offered in the attached documents, policies and resources. Specifically, I refer you to the supports offered by the U of T Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre (<https://www.svpscentre.utoronto.ca/support/>) and the U of T Sexual and Gender Diversity Office (<https://sgdo.utoronto.ca>). For help within the Faculty of Music, please see the attached Resources for Faculty of Music Students and the ARAO Committee’s Safe Spaces document.

[https://music.utoronto.ca/docs/u\\_of\\_t\\_faculty\\_of\\_music\\_safe\\_space\\_final\\_version.pdf](https://music.utoronto.ca/docs/u_of_t_faculty_of_music_safe_space_final_version.pdf)

Prior to the start of this most difficult year, we could not have imagined all that would be required of us, nor all that would be possible. *Requirement* and *possibility* remain before us as we continue to invest in collective and individual Safety, Equity, Access and Belonging.

We expect you to hold us to these.

Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Monica