

Karen Donnelly — IDEA Committee

I think it was in June, we received—after that I can't tell you which death, it's the one in... Anyway, after a big crisis in the Black Lives Matter movement we received communication from the big boss, the CEO of the NAC Deacon, and that the NAC was going to look hard at our policies, and then they were going to make—they created an administrative, like an executive committee that would be addressing diversity and inclusion. And then yeah, so it trickled down, obviously, to include the orchestra, and yes, I was asked to be part of that, yeah. So, it's been actually fascinating. I feel like, you know, because we've been forwarded—I mean, I read the news and everything, but I don't think—I've even forwarded a lot of interesting articles and material as a result. And pretty staggering statistics at how low the diversity numbers are in classical music. So, you know, we have work to do, and the NAC is very, we're—you know, moving forward at a very fast rate, I find, and trying to find ways to strategize on how to create opportunities and try to change that cycle, you know. Personally, I believe it all starts with education. I think it all starts with access to education and access to music. And kids, young kids, you know, there could be an incredible musician out there who just doesn't have the economic circumstances that would allow them the opportunity to be given, or exposure to music in this way. So, I mean, you know, it's a tragically terrible situation. But, you know, I'm glad that this is a positive to come out. And I think we're moving in the right direction.