



By Chloe Swindler

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines diversity as “the condition of having or being composed of differing elements”. In this sense, as a mixed race Black female working in the male-dominated field of brass performance I am composed of many elements of identity. Each of these unique qualifiers makes me increasingly more aware of the space I must **actively create** for disenfranchised groups. As the first Black female trumpeter to be working towards her Doctor of Musical Arts degree, I have a clear understanding of the massive amount of diversity work we have yet to do within classical music - as well as a clear understanding of the celebration we should have for how far we have come as a community.

As a performer, researcher, and educator, my career is dedicated to performing, researching, and educating others on compositions by Black and women composers and the contributions of Black female instrumentalists to the music industry.

I have written numerous academic research papers on such and have presented these writings at conferences at Yale and Boston University and in a wide range of classrooms at these institutions as well as UCLA. I created the Yale School of Music Black Collective in 2019 and facilitated the first-of-its-kind open forum discussion in which the Dean of the School of Music, faculty, administrators, and students came together to speak openly about diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial politics within the school. While at the Yale School of Music, I served on the Student Advisory Council to the YSM Dean to advise him on agenda items regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, and student life.

I currently serve as the co-chair for the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music Anti-Racism Committee. As such, I have brought in various speakers from outside of our network to speak with our committee and have hosted a weekly Anti-Racism Mindfulness Hour since January of 2021.



c o n t i n u e d

As a classical musician who is often the only Black performer in the ensemble and as a brass player who is often the only female brass player in the ensemble, I have experienced what it feels like to be an outsider. The intention that I set, in my role as an educator, administrator, and a person in life, is to make myself constantly aware of ways that others are being made to feel like outsiders and to use all of the resources available to both myself and my network to allow the right doors to open for them. Beyond that, it is not simply enough to invite our diverse community members “in” - we must create a space for them that is truly theirs to occupy and create a structure that allows their input and creativity to be incorporated within our community.