

Anti-Racism and Cultural Honouring - Presenting 'the Archers'!

'The Archers' is an NVN special interest group intended to be a learning community for NVN singing leaders who are interested to explore, learn and develop in the areas of 'Anti-Racism and Cultural Honouring' (ARCH). Each month there will be an online meeting for all those that can make it.

In signing up to become one of 'The Archers' you are not committing to anything specific. It is an expression of your interest in contributing positively in this area, and we understand that you will attend when you can.

The monthly meetings will have various different flavours. Some activities might include:

- Discussion spaces - where we all share our responses to a video, or a reading which will be circulated in advance. This might be an interview with a speaker sharing ideas about anti-racism and how to create more inclusive spaces, or a article which has some interesting ideas in it regarding cultural honouring, or something else relevant.
- Discussion forums 'NVN Question Time' – guest speakers from the singing world discuss ways we can move forward positively around awareness, diversity, inclusivity and best practice. Questions to be submitted in advance.
- Enquiry spaces - to explore each of us making the internal shifts that are needed for real lasting racial justice to come about (anti-racism enquiry, similar to / building on Me and White Supremacy process) which will in turn deepen our understanding of the experience of black people, and people of colour in our choirs, and hopefully lead to more inclusive choir spaces. And just for reassurance, these are aimed to be gentle spaces. Challenge may arise due to the nature of this work, but it is intended that these spaces are held with care.
- Meetings to create and finalise an NVN framework to describe our best practice recommendations as a network in the area of cultural honouring, specifically in the community music sphere. There is a lot written already in other more formalised contexts, but nothing we are aware of yet that is specifically geared towards community music.

The idea behind 'The Archers' is for it to be a learning and developing community. For real sustainable change in the area of healing racialisation, both in the singing world and beyond we need to cultivate an honest and transparent community, supporting each other in a non-shaming and caring way.

Activities will be emailed out to you every month, with any preparatory material to watch or read in the meantime. You can then decide if you want to / are able to attend that month. There will be no pressure on you to show up if it's beyond your capacity. Some meetings will also be open to drop-in participation by other NVN members as well. The exception to this will be facilitated enquiry spaces which will need to be signed up for in advance for reasons of creating safety in the group. Meeting recordings will often be available (again with the exception of personal sharing spaces) for viewing afterwards.

If you are interested to become one of 'The Archers', please fill in your details in this google form.

<https://forms.gle/YBfqu5ZGvJ8frTBy9>

For a more visual, relational explanation of what this new group will be, have a look at this little video from us. <https://youtu.be/8F0Ag6eVpJ4>

Fran & Molaro – NVN Trustees, April 2021