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PRESIDENT AND CEO

June 3, 2020

To the Jacksonville community,

This is a note that I sent out to our Board, staff and musicians this past Monday. I wanted to share it with our community as well.

Clearly the past few months have been very challenging for all of us as we continue to manage our way through what is still a very serious pandemic. And now, as a nation, we once again find ourselves facing the deep pain of racial injustice. As an arts organization, we serve our entire community without regard to the color of one's skin. The Jacksonville Symphony embraces and celebrates diversity. We shall always remain an inclusive organization where differences are respected. We shall always remain an organization that through the beauty of music, will celebrate life and bring joy and comfort to the community. The essence of all of the arts is that they are deeply rooted in human connections, and together as a community we will come together to create and enjoy music.

In America, and around the world, we know that eventually scientists will find a treatment and cure for COVID-19, but what is the treatment and cure for racism and racial injustice? I am confident that as a nation, we will continue to make progress. America has many challenges to face, and yet we remain the most heterogeneous society the world has ever known and that means we have a deep responsibility to keep pushing for racial justice and to improve our values and to always treat others as we would like to be treated. The Jacksonville Symphony will always be devoted to kindness, compassion and empathy.

A long time ago, I learned about the famous speech Robert Kennedy gave on the day Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. Here is a [link](#) to the powerful speech and I encourage you to listen to the audio recording; it's still as moving in 2020 as it was in 1968.

At the Jacksonville Symphony, you are all supported and we are all in this together.

Be well, and stay safe. We will gather soon to celebrate the joy of music.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Libman", written in a cursive style.

Steven Libman
President & CEO