

THE INCLUSIVE CONNECTOR

— YOU BELONG HERE —

Joy in Music

Friends, Commodores, countrymen—lend me your ears. What are we doing? What is even going on? It seems as if every time you turn on the TV, listen to the radio or check social media for news, another catastrophe occurs. Whether it's Puerto Ricans living without power due to a hurricane (again), thousands more people being hospitalized and dying from COVID (again), railroad workers and several other industries fighting for better working conditions (again), Iranian women protesting in the streets to advocate for their right to exist freely (again), or a capital city failing to provide clean water to its residents, it can be challenging to find joy and hope in what the future holds. I could write a letter about the resilience of people and the idealism of faith and whatnot. However, I believe there is a cathartic nature in acknowledging the “bad and the ugly,” along with the “good.” As a Black millennial woman, I don't often get permission to think on the “bright side.” By voluntarily opting into receiving this newsletter, it likely means you relate to this in some capacity or have deep empathy for those that do.



That said, in order to best function in our society, we must find ways to persevere. Aside from contacting legislators, donating money to mutual aid funds, joining protests or other forms of social activism, we must also utilize tools for restoration, care and healing. For me, that healing always begins and ends with music. As we approach LGBTQI History Month—and as a former band kid—my goal this month is to learn more about and celebrate many of the queer people of color that are influencing our musical landscape. That learning takes part in gaining knowledge about the proliferation of house-inspired music on the *Billboard* charts, the queering of regional Mexican music on a national

stage or learning of artists who fight for representation within anti-LGBTQ countries.

Whether you listen to folk, country, classical, hip-hop, electronic, some other genres of music (or no music at all!), I encourage each of you to listen to at least one musical artist in the month of October.

As we round out Latin American and Hispanic Heritage Month and approach LGBTQI History Month, I wish for restoration, care and healing for all of you. When challenging issues happen close to home, it's especially important to remember that there are many ways to support one another. Some are even as simple as putting a [new playlist](#) in your music rotation.

Sincerely,

Hope Young

Associate Program Manager, Intercultural Campus Engagement



Get Connected: Upcoming Events

[Latin American/Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

[9/28: Liberating Structures](#)

[10/3: LGBT Policy Lab presents Faith and Politics: LGBTQIA+ Social Justice and Reproductive Rights](#)

[10:6-9: Volunteers Needed for Reunion Weekend](#)

[10/17-28: Open Enrollment](#)

[10/25: 'Dores in Dialogue: A Conversation on the economic cost of injustice](#)

[11/30: P.R.I.D.E. Training](#)

Community support in light of VUMC coverage

Chancellor Daniel Diermeier and Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs C. Cybele Raver share a message with members of the Vanderbilt University community to offer support in light of the recent press surrounding Vanderbilt University Medical Center's gender-affirming care and policies. [Read More +](#)



LGBTQI History Month begins Oct. 1

October is LGBTQI history month, recognized nationally and at Vanderbilt as a time of reflection, celebration and education. In recognition of the month, the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Life, in collaboration with multiple campus and community partners, has developed a calendar of events. [Read More +](#)



Churchwell expands role with new title, position at university

Chancellor Daniel Diermeier has expanded Vice Chancellor André L. Churchwell's role to include institutional belonging and community outreach. To reflect this expanded role, Churchwell's title will now be vice chancellor for outreach, inclusion and belonging and chief diversity officer at Vanderbilt University. [Read More +](#)

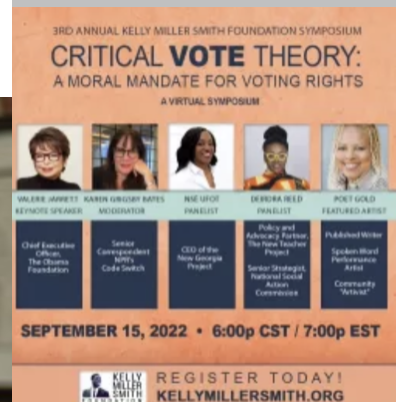
[RAD Self-Defense](#)

[HR Employee Learning & Engagement experiences for 2022](#)

Continuing the Conversation



[WATCH: A Candid Conversation on Free Expression at Vanderbilt](#)



[WATCH: 2022 Kelly Miller Smith Institute Symposium Critical Vote Theory: A Moral Mandate for Voting Rights](#)



[WATCH: Understanding the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty: How Economic](#)

VANDERBILT STAFF CENSUS



Resources

Heritage Month

Workshops

Complete staff census now through Oct. 31 to improve support for VU community, earn chance to win \$100

Vanderbilt University wants to expand its understanding and support of the campus community by encouraging staff members to participate in the staff census now through Oct. 31. The census typically takes about 10 minutes to complete. Fifty staff who complete the census by Oct. 21 will be randomly selected to win \$100 each. [Read More +](#)

Connect
With Us



Vanderbilt to launch Banned Books Initiative with reception, panel discussion

Recent policies and legislation across the U.S. have made the reading and teaching of banned books even more difficult in K–12 classrooms and libraries. To help the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities navigate these changes, several offices across Vanderbilt have collaborated on a Banned Books Initiative featuring a series of events offered throughout the academic year. [Read More +](#)



Peabody College, Mathematica receive \$1.42M from Wallace Foundation to study assistant principals and equitable pathways to principalship

The Wallace Foundation recently awarded a four-year, \$1.42 million grant to Vanderbilt Peabody College of education and human development and Mathematica for a new study to expand knowledge about assistant principals and provide new insights on how the role can help diversify the principal profession and advance educational equity. [Read More +](#)



Vanderbilt launches internal funding program to strengthen community partnership with NMAAM

A new internal funding program will spark faculty and staff collaborations with the National Museum of African American Music, with the aim of enhancing innovative research in the arts. [Read More +](#)



VU participates in AAC&U Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success

Vanderbilt was one of 41 institutions selected to participate in the American Association of Colleges and Universities 2022 Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success. The virtual learning experience was designed to facilitate building institutional capacity to achieve quality, equity and student engagement goals through the design, implementation and assessment of active teaching and learning practices. [Read More +](#)



Student Access gets new, improved space in Sarratt Center

Vanderbilt University's Student Access Office, which provides a wide range of support services to students with disabilities, has moved to a state-of-the-art space in the heart of campus with new resources and an expanded academic staff. [Read More +](#)



Upcoming Holy days: Requesting religious accommodations for academic and work responsibilities

We encourage students, faculty and staff to be proactive in requesting religious accommodations for academic or work responsibilities. [Read More +](#)



Proctor to lead Vanderbilt's strengthened support for reproductive health and parenting

Vanderbilt has named Hannah Proctor, MSN'16, to the new role of reproductive health and parenting resource coordinator for the university community. Proctor, a certified nurse-midwife, will be the first point of contact for pregnant individuals and parents who may need assistance and support. [Read More +](#)



Vanderbilt recently signed an agreement to enter an alliance with The Alumni Society

The Alumni Society has officially extended its university alliances to include Vanderbilt University. Latino and Latina alumni who received a degree from this renowned institution are encouraged to apply for membership to The Alumni Society effective immediately.

[Read More +](#)

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