

## Race and Song

### A Musical Conversation with Reggie Harris & Alastair Mook

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/YLUjurqSPGQ>

*“Skin color and issues surrounding race should be discussed in school. But, it is difficult to do, and there is much fear and concern over getting the words right. If you are a teacher, administrator or a school staff member who is searching for ways to get this conversation started in a productive way, I highly recommend Race and Song. Every topic discussed is met with compassion, historical background, love, and a genuine interest in understanding one another's life stories. This program will leave everyone thinking and talking about race in a productive way, and reflecting on how we are all part of this discussion.”*

~ Evan Jacobson, Hatch Elementary

#### DESCRIPTION

##### **For 4-12th Grades, Family and Community Audiences**

What happens when two friends get together? Usually they talk about their lives, they get caught up on the news, maybe listen to each other's points of view, and share what's on their minds. And, if they're musicians, they're likely to pull out an instrument or two along the way...

In **Race and Song: A Musical Conversation**, Alastair Mook and Reggie Harris do just that. Only, in this case, these friends of different races, ages, and social backgrounds share how they've seen and experienced the world in different ways. They explore issues of race, class, gender and history with an intentionality and generosity of spirit that will draw in kids and adults alike. These aren't always comfortable topics for discussion, but the discussion — and the discomfort — are keys to moving forward.

Together in musical conversation, and with the aid of historical and family photos, Alastair and Reggie open up to each other and frame their perspectives through music (which always helps the medicine go down!). Join these two **veteran musicians** and **storytelling troubadours** for a very special performance — an exploration of the past, the present and the possible.

**Curriculum Connections:** History, music, social studies, cultural geography, social justice, diversity, storytelling

#### OPTIONS

**Full-length 47' pre-recorded program** with live, online Q&A segment with Reggie and Alastair at the end of one viewing. Access to the pre-recorded program is available one week. Call to discuss how this program may be expanded to include student workshops or teacher development.

**CONDITIONS** - School/Venue must organize and administer event; Call to discuss further details

*“We loved it! The kids would have loved to ask questions all day and wanted more time with Reggie and Alastair (a good problem to have in my opinion!). This fit in SO well with the grade six curriculum and where we are in our unit on slavery/resistance. It really could not have fit in better. We are about to finish Jefferson's Sons, and hearing from Reggie about his experience meeting his white ancestors parallels Sally Hemings story. To see them talk about race and simply observe was beneficial for all the students and teachers alike.”*

~ 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher