

“Let’s talk it over at Mohonk”

Mohonk Consultations is an independent nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for the meaningful and productive exchange of ideas at the historic Mohonk Mountain House.

Visit our website for information about future programs and to sign up for email updates. There you will also find information about previous Distinguished Achievement Award recipients and past programs on peace building; environmental sustainability, and resilient communities.

Please consider a donation in support of these efforts to bring together people of diverse perspectives and create paths for positive change.

mohonk-consultations.org



A Community Conversation

Mohonk Consultations acknowledges, with respect and gratitude, that we are living in and sustained by Lenapehoking, homeland of the Lenape peoples. The first peoples who lived here were the Esopus and Minisink peoples of the Lenni Lenape nations. Wars and Indian Removal policies forced most of the Lenape westward. Many of their descendants continue to live here; others live throughout North America. We honor all Indigenous communities—past, present, and future—as we seek to create a safe space for all.

Mohonk Consultations, Inc.

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Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Mohonk Mountain House Conference House



MOHONK CONSULTATIONS

MUSIC AS A FORCE FOR HEALING AND CONNECTION

A Community Conversation

Welcome to the first in our planned series of small, neighborly gatherings designed to bring a group of people together to listen and interact with each other on current—or ageless—poignant issues. Through conversation, we will explore how the power of music has been evident—or lacking—in our own lives, and discuss how we all might use music to heal and connect with others.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026
7:30–9:00 P.M.

Mohonk Consultations Welcome

- Louisa Finn, Chair, Mohonk Consultations

Introduction: Community Conversations

- Brad Berg, Vice-Chair, Mohonk Consultations

Presentation

- Livia Vanaver

Group Conversation

Presentation

- Elisa Parker

Group Conversation

Closing Remarks

PRESENTERS

Livia Vanaver holds a BFA in Dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and is the Artistic Director of The Vanaver Caravan. Over the past 52 years, she has been a pioneer in arts education across New York State, advocating for the teaching of world dance and global citizenship in schools. She has immersed herself and thousands of others around the planet in music, dance, healing and unity. Livia and The Vanaver Caravan were the recipients of the Mohonk Consultations Annual Distinguished Achievement Award in 2024. vanavercaravan.org

Elisa Parker holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music therapy and is a Board-Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC) as well as a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist (LCAT) with certification as a Hospice and Palliative Care Music Therapist. She has presented at music therapy conferences both regionally and internationally. Elisa has worked as a lecturer for SUNY New Paltz and has presented at music therapy conferences both regionally and internationally. Elisa currently works for Hudson Valley Hospice as a music therapy educator and clinician. elisa.musictx@gmail.com

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

- How do you choose different styles or genres of music depending on the specific emotional relief you need?
- What role can music play in helping younger and older generations connect and heal shared vulnerabilities together?
- In what ways can we honor and learn from indigenous and traditional uses of music for healing within our modern community?
- How have you experienced music as a force for healing and connection?

KEEP IN TOUCH



Subscribe to our email updates to find out about future Mohonk Consultations programs, including possible additional Community Conversations.