Songs of Government

A Cantata
Written and performed by
The Crossroads 9th Grade
Jeff Liberty and Peter Soule, participating Humanities Teachers

Fenway High School
Boston, Massachusetts
Spring 1999

Classroom Cantatas

Sponsored by The Cantata Singers
FREE AS A BIRD

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
CHRISTINA DALRYMPLE, NATHALIE FONTANEZ,
DAVID GALEPEAU, DAISY HERNANDEZ,
DAVID JOHNSON, AND JASON LATIMORE

[Music notation]

J = 92  Conga throughout  unison:

[Music notation]

Freedom is what you make of it. Freedom is what you make of it.

[Music notation]

Freedom is choices. The road is long and narrow. So many twists, so many turns,

[Music notation]

Freedom is something we must earn.

[Music notation]

Freedom's never given, it.
Free as a Bird, pg 2

All:

is gained. To live without it is a shame. Freedom

also comes with restrictions. (Freely) so sit back, relax, close your

eyes and just listen. Freedom, Freedom, Freedom —

Rap Solo:

Free, free, I know I am free.
Free to be the person I want to be.
Can you not see me?
I know I am heard,
for I am as free
as a bird.
Now I know why
the caged bird sings.
Now open your eyes
and listen to the breath of our wings.
Now I know why
the caged bird sings.

Women:

Repeat 3 times, growing louder, then softer, and fading out.

What is freedom?

Men:

Freedom is what you make of it.
MISCONCEPTIONS

Words and Music by Sidra Lestrade, Tom Lutz, Mary Nasouluk, Shanae Oliver, Sam Tosi, Mrs. V. Nordal

Smooth and Flowing

And justice for all, Is it Right or Wrong?

Hungry sad and cold, life feels empty. We wander through the streets.

things are out of hand, dusty dry tonight. will tomorrow be

Fast, agitated, angry

bongos, drums, hand clapping, foot-stomping, etc.
(palms on black keys)

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I give a nickel I give a dime
I'd help the homeless but I don't have the time.

They wouldn't know that the government gives back, close-minded money sucking scum!

Can we get on our feet when we get kicked down we need a helping hand.

Where is yours? So justice for all, is it right or wrong?

No more tears for me, will tomorrow be better after all?
CAN YOU SEE WHAT MY EYES CAN SEE?

WORDS AND MUSIC BY ANDREYA ALLEN,
LUZ PEREZ, JOCENEIA TIMAS AND JULIAN VILLADA

voice

Susanna: Why kill innocent people?

spoken freely, without rhythm

Why destroy the world? Why don't people just get along? Talk things

over instead of fighting? I hate war. Some people love it. Why does it exist, anyway? There is no point

All: (Rhythmic)

of war. Who would join it? They joined it, so they will fight to the end of it. World War One and Two: now it's up to me and you
Can you see...

not to make it Three. World War One and Two:

now it's up to me and you not to make it Three. And I

still see no changes when they fight. They don't even realize the

terrible things they're doing to this beautiful world.

*a few voices*
world War One and Two: now it's up to me and you not to make it three ---

world War One and Two: Now it's up to me and you

Solo: not to make it three. But I still see no changes; can the

world get a little peace? Now tell me: Don't we need to change ---
Can You See... pg 4

All: world war one and two: now it's up to me and you

now? world war one and two:

not to make it three.

world war one and two:

not to make it three.

now it's up to me and you not to make it three.

spoken: "Now tell me: why should war take place in this life?"

ritard...
We are the ones with the power, minds expanding like sunflowers. To learn is to grow past what we thought we knew, we knew what we thought the E, the D, the U, the C, the

A the T, the I, O, N Education—what? what? education. What? what? To climb beyond the walls of knowledge, or should we walk a long and narrow path? We can't get around it, you have to go through it, more knowledge, more questions, more living, more lessons, education. What? what? the E, the D, the U, the C, the

A the T, the I, O, N Education!