Mendell Elementary School

Independence: Its Many Meanings in Colonial America

Classroom Cantatas

Composed and Performed by Ms. Henry's 5th Grade Class
Independence: Its Many Meanings in Colonial America

A cantata written and performed by Ms. Henry's Fifth Grade
Ellis Mendell Elementary School, Roxbury, MA
2008-2009

Abigail Adams
No Freedom
Why Do They Put Chains on Me?
Independence
Abigail Adams

Words and Music by Azhanae Martin, Frances Curtis-Seisay, Hakim Williams and Ricardo Gonzales
Ms Herry's 5th grade, Ellis Mendell School
with Carola Emrich-Fisher, Cantata Singers

Abigail Adams was John Adams' wife. She
wanted rights for women in the Declaration of Independence,

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so they could be, so they could be in-de-pen-dent.

One day, Abigail and John Adams were eat-ing pan-cakes, waf-fles and ba-

con. "I won-der why wo-men
don't have any rights when they get married." John answered her,

"Abigail, they should have rights. All men are created equal." Then she said, "John, all men and women are created equal."
No Freedom

Words and Music by Armando Colon, Kiwan Mosley, Melybet Oller and Audreyana Washington
Ms Herry's 5th Grade, Mendell School
with Jacque Wilson, Cantata Singers

Hand claps:

Voices:

Voices and Piano

We are the South, the great

Soulful, like a Recitative

South!

We as the South believe that we should own our own plantations.

We should not be controlled by King George any more. We're tired, so tired of payin' his taxes.

We should be able to keep slaves to

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grow our crops. Shoo-bop, shoo bop shoo bop-pi-ty bop. They will

cook and clean and clean and cook and wash our clothes.

Wash 'em, wash 'em, wash 'em good!

We are the South, the South, the strong South!
Why Did They Put Chains On Me?!

Music and Words by Cairo Watkins, Tajanae Edwards,
Eddie Barreto and Isaiah Medina
Ms Herry's 5th Grade, Ellis Mendell School
with Kumi Donaghue, Cantata Singers

Sadly \( \frac{1}{4} = 102 \)

Voice

Piano

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{Why did they put chains on me?!! Where are we going? Where will we be? Our fate is}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{in God's hands now. Pain, So much pain for me.}
\end{align*}
\]

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Happily

I remember when I was young. My brothers and sisters playing happily while I was helping my mom in the kitchen, the kitchen, the kitchen...

We are going to have
Why Did They Put Chains On Me?

We are going to have freedom

We are going to have freedom

We have freedom! We have freedom! We are

f

freedom

We have freedom! We have freedom! We are

f

free at last! Freedom!
Independence

Words and Music by Victor Acevedo, Zareah Esperance, Amire Loftis and Malachi Padilla
5th Grade, Ellis Mendell School with Catherine Hedberg, Cantata Singers

\( \text{\textit{d} = 60} \)

We want peace and privacy and space

We want those British out of our face.

We don't want to pay those British.

We've had it with their taxes and their rules.

We've had enough! We all have rights!

We all have rights to live in peace and independence

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We do not want to be ruled by King George the Third.

We should always work together no matter what color or race we are.

Whites should not treat blacks as slaves or as puppets or as rats.

We should all be equal with no power over others.

We all have rights to live in peace and independence.