Composed and Performed by
Ms. Kelley and Ms. Marroquin’s 2nd Grade Classes

Classroom Cantatas

Mendell Elementary School

Festivals of Light

Celebrations Around the World

cantata singers

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About Classroom Cantatas

In 1990, Cantata Singers commissioned Slavery Documents by Donald Sur. It was the first of three major choral orchestral works commissioned to date by Cantata Singers with texts exploring the themes of slavery. Slavery Documents’ focus was American slavery, what Mr. Sur called the “unaddressed Achilles heel of United States culture.” Cantata Singers began to see that this work needed to resonate beyond that Symphony Hall performance. Sur’s musical examination of racial inequality and discrimination reminded Cantatas Singers’ leadership of the crying need for meaningful arts education in the schools.

Out of this time, Classroom Cantatas emerged. Ann Marie Lindquist, Paul Brust and Judy Hill Bose developed a residency program far more challenging than the typical “come, talk, sing, leave.” Instead, it was one that had the potential to guide Boston’s schoolchildren in finding and harnessing their creative voices. Classroom Cantatas now flourishes in the Boston public schools and, over its twenty years, has touched the lives of thousands of children.

Classroom Cantatas guides young students in creating their own musical compositions, or “cantatas.” Students from participating schools work with the Teaching Artists—musicians from Cantata Singers’ ensemble—to compose and perform original songs about subjects they are studying in class or about larger cultural and historical issues. Past cantata topics have included the American Revolution, Factors of Weather, Mexican Culture, immigration, the Civil Rights Movements, Mathematics, poetic devices, and Geography. Over the past twenty years of Classroom Cantatas, students have composed and performed over 300 songs.

About Cantata Singers

Cantata Singers was founded in 1964 to present what was then a long-neglected repertoire, the cantatas of J.S. Bach. Since that time, the group has expanded its repertoire to include choral works from the seventeenth century to the present day. The Cantata Singers’ recordings and performances can be heard regularly on local and national public radio.

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Classroom Cantatas at Mendell Elementary School
Roxbury, Massachusetts
Julia Bott, Principal
Jenna Kelley and Maria Marroquin, 2nd Grade Teachers

Kumi Donaghue, Carola Emrich-Fisher, Susan Navien and Sara Wyse-Wenger,
Classroom Cantatas Teaching Artists

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So Many People
(Chorale)

Ms. Kelley's Second Grade Class
with Carola Emrich-Fisher, Cantata Singers

Swing
Voice

Piano

So many, so many,

humming

So many, so many,

So many, so many,

So many people,

So many places people of the United States come from so many places.
So many, so many,
Swing

So many, so many, so many
Pno.

Crescendo

Straight (not swing)

Vo.

p

f

rit.

a tempo

Vo.

f

mp

Pno.

p crescendo

Cantata Singers 2015
Festivals of Light

by Max, Mairead, Wilmiary, Jada, Melinda
with Kumi Donaghue, Cantata Singers

Lauren Mayer

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Festivals of light,
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Can-dles glow-ing oh so bright
Dif-fer-ent peo-ple have dif-fer-ent ways To
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cel-ebrate win-ter hol-i-days. Can-dles warm up the night In fes-ti-vals of
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Cantata Singers 2015
VERE 1

light! Di - wa - li's a Hin - du fes - ti-val, gathering for one and all

Ha-nu-klah's a fes - ti-val of lights', where oil kept glowing for eight nights

Drei-dels and lat - kes help us show_ a mir - a - cle from long a - go
There's Las Posadas in Mexico, from house to house the children go_

singing songs along the street, then break piñatas full of treats

Kwanza is the holiday for African American culture
Light the candles, which are seen colors of red, black and green.

D.S. al Coda

light!
Advent
by Jonathan, Antwan, Briana, Jailene, Thano
with Susan Navien, Cantata Singers

Adapted from Catholic Advent Wreath Prayer

10

How dark outside!

But see a star

mysterious

17

bright in the sky:

Mary and Joseph are passing by.

We'll light Advent candles and wait for them As they go on their mysterious

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way to Bethlehem: First one, then two, then three then

four, Then Christmas Eve is here once more!
Hanukkah

by Alex, Jael, Juliet, Leonard, Toby

with Carola Enrich-Fisher, Cantata Singers

Adapted from Nicholas Gordon

Can-dles dance on the me-no-rah

Kindled by a match that sings
Kindled by a match that sings

All the children dance the
Vo.  
ho-ra  Here to give the mo-ment wings

Pno.  
mf

Vo.  
Here to give the mo-ment wings

Pno.  
poco cres.  poco rit.

Vo.  
Here to give the mo-ment wings

Pno.  
Poco cres.  poco rit.

decresc.
Kwanzaa

Adapted from Jacquie Godden

by Alexes, Shariona, Aaron, August and Naveen

with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

Slowly

Voice

Piano

Sev-en

Sev-en

Sev-en

Sev-en

Sev-en

Sev-en

Sev-en Days to Celebrate Kwanzaa,

Sev-en Days of Nguzo Saba,

Sev-en Candles on the Kinara,

Sev-en Days to Remember who we are

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Sev-en days to cel-e-brate Kwan-zaa

Sev-en days to cel-e-brate Kwan-zaa

Sev-en days of N’gu-zo Sa-ba

Sev-en days of N’gu-zo Sa-ba

Sev-en Candles on the Ki-na-ra,

Sev-en Candles on the Ki-na-ra,

Sev-en days to re-mem-ber who we

are.

are.
20

Kwan-zaa______ Kwan-zaa______ It feeds the souls of our African Roots.

24

Kwan-zaa calling us home to embrace the past, and to know our own
So Many People
(Chorale)
Ms. Marroquin's Second Grade Class
with Carola Emrich-Fisher, Canata Singers

Voice
Piano

So many people, so many faces, people of the United States
come from so many places

So many people,
so many faces people of the United States come from so many places

diminuendo

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So many people so many faces, People of the United States come from so many places!
Eid-al-Fitr
by Alaya, Gigi, Imran, Rye, Sky, Sylvie
with Carola Emrich-Fisher, Cantata Singers

Nancy Stewart

Do you see a crescent moon?
When you see a crescent moon, We cele-bate Eid.

We'll have a par-ty
with our friends and
We will decorate with lots of lights. Celebrate Eid!

We will dress up in our brand-new clothes.

We will eat our special food together.

We'll open up our presents.

Do you
see a cres-cent moon?  

Eid____ mu ba - rak!  Eid____ seid!

Bles__ sed Fes - ti - val!  Hap - py Fes - ti - val!

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May Day
Colorful Maypole

Adapted from Brenda Williams

by Lenius, Una, Abigail, Elfè and Jethro
with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

Voice

Mm, mm, mm, May Day pa pa pa May Day pa pa pa May Day

Piano

Red, yel-low, green and blue Red, yel-low, green and blue Danc-ing rib-bons

crescendo

weave with you. May Day May Day Round the May-pole dance and skip,

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O-ver, un-der, lift and dip.

Red, yel-low, green and blue

Weave with you. May Day

Tempo 1

A little slower

Quicker

Round the May-pole dance and skip,

Over, un-der, lift and dip.

Tempo 1

A little slower

Quicker

Over, un-der, lift and dip.

Tempo 1

A little slower

Quicker

Over, un-der, lift and dip.

Tempo 1

A little slower

Quicker

Over, un-der, lift and dip.
35  Slower

Yellow, red, blue and green
The bright-est May-pole you have seen!
May Day pa pa pa

41  Broadening

May Day
The bright-est May-pole you have seen!
Chinese New Year

by Angelo, Davina, Diego, Katarina, Lucas
with Susan Navien, Cantata Singers

Oh, these are the things in the Chinese New Year parade:
A dragon with his big head it shoots confetti,
Oh, these are the things...
13

in the Chinese New Year parade: We hung up colored lanterns,

17

yellow, green, and red, hung by red thread. Now let's set off

21
crescendo

fireworks, and make sure they're red! 8va

Pno.
Holi - The Mehndi Tree

Brenda Williams

Moderato

by Seth, Lily, Himmer, Kallinton, Liany

with Kumi Donaghue, Cantata Singers

Take red and gold of the morning skies. From the leaves of the Mehndi tree.

Make patterns of the special dyes. On the

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hands of you and me.

Take little hands and decorate with mango, leaves and curls. A paisley pattern of your own with mehndi shapes and...
swirls.