Composed and Performed by
Ms. Kelly and Ms. Marroquin's 2nd Grade Classes

Classroom Cantatas

Mendell Elementary School

The Games We Play

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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

James Dargan, Shaw Pong Liu, Allie Whitfield, and Sara Wyse-Wenger
Classroom Cantatas Teaching Artists

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If school were more like base-ball we’d always get to play.

We’d hang out in the sun-shine and run a-round all day.

We wouldn’t have to stu-dy.
wouldn't have to study. * We wouldn't have to STUDY! __* * * mf* We'd

practise and we'd train, and best of all they'd cancel when ever there was rain. __* * *
When some-one takes your turn when
rolled if possible

some-one pushes you out of the way suddenly the game is no longer

very much fun to play What is the point of a game, I say, if
we are not going to play fair?!

It's more fun if we follow the rules and

show each other we care

If a

person apologizes and gives back the ball it might just lift up your frown You
might feel like playing again if they say I'm sorry for pushing you down!
Recess

Avis Harley

Theodora, Teddy, Alexa, Aidan, and Jariely, with Shaw Pong Liu, Cantata Singers

\( j = 144 \)

\( \text{f} \)  
Someone shouts: Pass the ball!

Voice

\( p \)
Some play soccer,

Piano

\( p \text{ legato} \)
Some run races

Vo.

\( \text{mf} \)
Others read in quiet places.

Vo.

\( \text{m} \)
Some find leaves or draw with chalk.

Pno.
Some play tag while others talk! talk! talk! talk!

A tempo

A few play chess lots play ball, and some just like to watch it all!

Meno mosso

Spoken, disorganized, all at different times
Empathy and Encouragement

Students at Northpoint Elementary in Blaine, MN

Alicia, Elias, Elijah, Jacob, Justin, with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

It's hard to lose when there's a lot at stake

It can feel like the world's going to end

But even if you lost the Super-bowl, you can still get comfort from your friends. "Keep on trying."

Cantata Singers, 2016
"Keep on trying." Em-pa-thy can help when some-one's feel-ing bad. You can
keep on try-ing e-even though you feel sad. "I missed a bas-ket be-fore" "I made a mis-
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Cour-age-ment can take us a long way And keep us in the sun

"Don't give up! You're still Num-ber One!"

I know it can be hard to get through things that are sad but you have to try and
Perhaps those who can sing it on pitch

You rock!

try again
Games We Can't Play By Ourselves

There are so man-y games that we like to play  Kick and catch is so much fun

We could play games all the day  Football, kick-ball, run!  Or

in-doors we might play Mo-no-poly, you get some mon-ey  G T
Vo.


Pno.

Vv. So much can- dy in Can- dy- land. Team Leg- os! One for all and

Pno.

now Slower all for one! These games we can't play by our- selves Like

Pno.

Vo. birds can-not fly without their feath- ers We like to play with fam- i- ly and

Cantata Singers, 2016
friends. We like to play together.
Always a Calm Way Out

Text by students

Nyeema, Justin, Lensky, Lenin, Jacob, with Shaw Pong Liu, Cantata Singers

Sometimes somebody gets mad in a game or we disagree.

But there's always a calm way out of any problem you can see if they...
ask you for the ball you can give it to them if they
ask you to be on the other team you can do it don't hit the ball
after you kick it! If someone cheats ask them to stop and fix it
Don't get mad if you get out
Don't get mad if you get out

Sometimes somebody gets mad in a game

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or we dis - a gree. gree. but there's al ways a calm way out of

an y pro - blem you can see
The Sorry Song

Joyce Sidman

Tyler, Areli, Yerika, Aiden, Reynaldo with Allie Whitfield, Cantata Singers

Voice

Piano

Voice

Piano

mf

Vo.

Pno.

Vo.

Pno.

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coach bellowing.

all those red rubber balls thumping like

heartbeats against the walls and ceiling blinking back and forth like

beat keeps going - solo

stop lights that really mean go, go, go, go, GO!
See, I even got carried away in this poem.
How We Can All Have Fun

Text by students

Alessandra, Hailey, Danny, Lezhir, Leila, with James Dargan, Cantata Singers

When people think they’re the boss of the game or

steal the ball push you and you fall or there’s a big disagreement

That’s really not fun at all

luckily there are things we can do solutions to be had like
gi - ving some - one a se - cond chance with no - bo - dy get - ting mad

Luck - i - ly there are things we can do
calm our-selves and breathe long breaths so we can all have fun!