

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

# Classroom Cantatas

Mendell  
Elementary School

*The Games We Play*

**can ta ta  
singers**

## 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.

David Hoose, *Music Director*  
Jennifer Ritvo Hughes, *Executive Director*  
Emily Weddle, *Development and Marketing Manager*  
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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

# Baseball is Better

Kenn Nesbitt

Alvin, Katania, Tyiesha, Micah, Maya, Alex B. with. Allie Whitfield, Cantata Singers

Voice

Piano

*mp* If

5

Vo.

Pno.

school were more like base-ball we'd al-ways get to play. — *mf* We'd hang out in the

8

Vo.

Pno.

sun-shine and run a-round all day. *p* We would-n't have to stu-dy. *mp* We

11

Vo. would-n't have to stu - dy. *f* We would-n't have to STU - DY! *ff* *mf* We'd

Pno.

14

Vo. *BIG rit.*  
prac-tice and we'd train, and best of all they'd can-cel when ev-er there was rain.

Pno.

# What's the Point of a Game?

Text by students

Alex, Jackson, Yoseliani, Jaylin, Jeremiah, with James Dargan, Cantata Singers

When some-one takes your turn when

strumming half notes

rolled if possible

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1 through 3. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 1, followed by a quarter rest in measure 2, and then the lyrics 'When some-one takes your turn when' starting in measure 3. The piano accompaniment features a consistent rhythmic pattern of strummed half notes in the right hand and a bass line of chords in the left hand, with the instruction 'rolled if possible'.

some - one push-es you out of the way sud-den-ly the game is no long - er

triplets

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 4 through 6. The vocal line has lyrics 'some - one push-es you out of the way sud-den-ly the game is no long - er'. Measure 4 includes a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 6 includes a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as the first system.

ve - ry much fun to play What is the point of a game, I say, if

change

3 3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 9. The vocal line has lyrics 've - ry much fun to play What is the point of a game, I say, if'. Measure 7 includes a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 9 includes a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as the first system.

8

we are not going to play fair?! It's more fun if we follow the rules and

11

show each other we care If a

13

person apologizes and gives back the ball it might just lift up your frown You

15

musical score for measures 15-18. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: "might feel like playing a-gain if they say I'm sor - ry for pushing you down!". The melody features triplets and a ritardando (rit.) marking. The piano accompaniment includes a bass line with a 7th fret marking and a treble line with triplets.

19

musical score for measure 19. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The measure ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment features a bass line with a 7th fret marking and a treble line with a chord.

# Recess

Avis Harley

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

$\text{♩} = 144$  *f* Someone shouts:  
Pass the ball!

Voice

Piano

5 *p*

Vo.

Pno.

*p* legato

9 *mf*

Vo.

Pno.



Spoken, disorganized,  
all at different times

13

Vo. *a tempo*

Some— play tag while o-thers talk! talk! talk! talk! a

Pno.

16

Vo. *meno mosso*

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

Pno.

20

Vo.

some just like to watch it all!

Pno.

# Empathy and Encouragement

Students at Northpoint Elementary  
in Blaine, MN

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

Voice

It's hard to lose when there's a

Piano

5

Vo.

lot at stake It can feel like the world's going to end But e-ven if you lost the

Pno.

9

Vo.

Sup-er-bowl, you can still get com-fort from your friends. "Keep on try-ing."

Pno.

13

Vo. "Keep on try-ing." Em-pa - thy can help when some-one's feel - ing bad. You can

Pno.

16

Vo. keep on try-ing e-ven though you feel sad. "I missed a bas - ket be - fore" "I made a mis-

Pno.

20

Vo. take do-ing a cart - wheel" I felt em - bar-rassed and a lit - tle mad." En -

Pno.

*mf*

*mf*

23

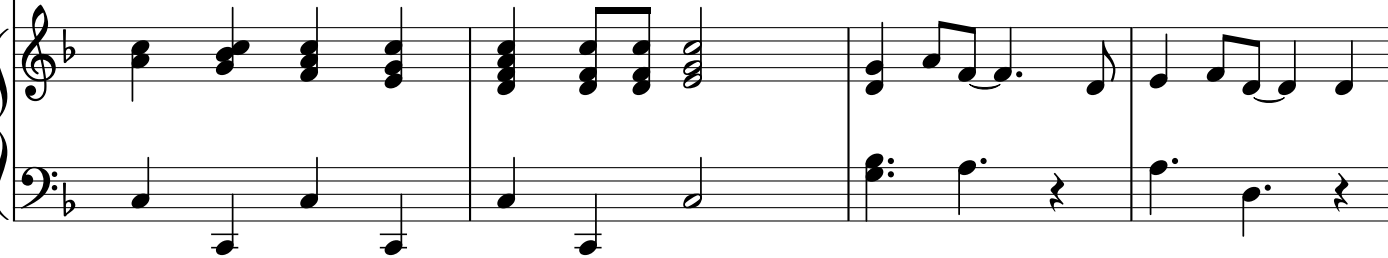
Vo.    
 cour-age-ment can take us a long way And keep us in the sun

Pno. 

27

Slower:

Vo.    
 "Don't give up! You're still Number One!" "I

Pno. 

31

Vo.    
 know it can be hard to get through things that are sad but you have to try and

Pno. 

Perhaps those who can  
sing it on pitch

34

Vo.

try a - gain You rock!

Pno.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for measures 34 and 35. The vocal line (Vo.) is written in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are "try a - gain You rock!". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is written in two staves, treble and bass clefs, with the same key signature and time signature. The piano part consists of a simple harmonic accompaniment. In measure 34, the vocal line has notes for "try", "a", and "gain". In measure 35, there are two rests marked with an 'x' above the staff, corresponding to the lyrics "You" and "rock!". The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic background.

# Games We Can't Play By Ourselves

Text by students

Felix, Janivalis, Jhadi, Miguel, Violet, with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

Voice

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

Piano

6

Vo.

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

Pno.

10

Vo.

in - doors we might play Mo - no - po-ly, you get some mon - ey G T

Pno.

14

Vo. A? Oh, I love G T A! Can - dy-land Oh, Can - dy-land.

Pno.

18

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

Pno.

22 *now Slower*

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

Pno.

25

Vo. birds can-not fly with-out their fea-thers We like to play with fam - i-ly and

Pno.

Vo. friends. We like to play to - geth-er.

Pno. geth-er.



# Always a Calm Way Out

Text by students

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

Voice

Piano

Some - times some - bo - dy

4

Vo.

Pno.

gets mad in a game or we dis - a gree.

6

Vo.

Pno.

but there's al ways a calm way out of an y pro blem you can see if they

9  $\text{♩} = 76$   
tempo rubato

Vo. ask you for the ball you can give it to them if they

Pno.

11

Vo. ask you to be on the o - ther team you can do it don't hit the ball

Pno.

14

Vo. af ter you kick it! If some one cheats ask them to stop and fix it

Pno.

♩ = 104

17

Vo. Don't get mad if you get out Don't get mad if you get out

Pno.

19

Vo. Don't get mad if you get out Don't get mad if you get out


Pno.

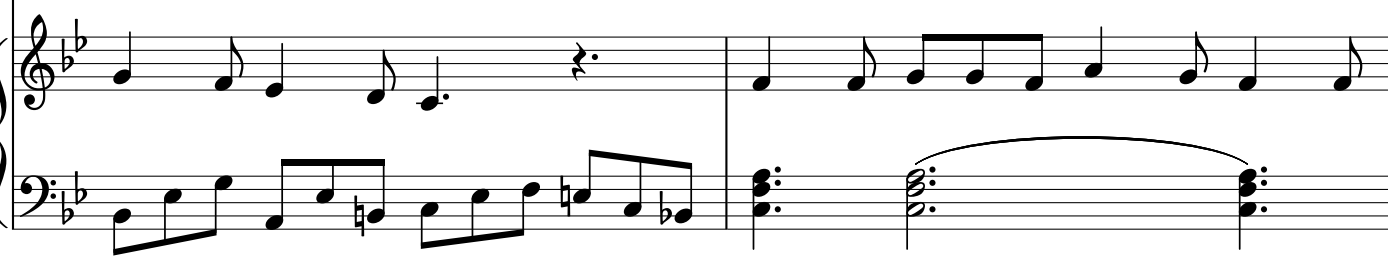
21

Vo. Some - times some - body gets mad in a game

Pno.

23

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

Pno. 

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 23 and 24. The vocal line (Vo.) is in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are "or we dis - a gree. gree. but there's al ways a calm way out of". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) consists of two staves: a right-hand treble clef staff and a left-hand bass clef staff. The right hand plays a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

25

Vo.  an y problem you can see

Pno. 

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 25 and 26. The vocal line (Vo.) continues in the same treble clef and key signature. The lyrics are "an y problem you can see". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) continues with two staves. The right hand features a more active melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes, while the left hand maintains a steady accompaniment with chords and eighth-note patterns.



12

Vo. *f* coach be-low-ing. — *mf* all those red rub-ber balls thump-ing like

Pno.

15

Vo. heart - beats a - gainst the walls and cei - ling blink-ing back and forth like

Pno.

18

beat keeps going - solo *ff*

Vo. stop lights *p* that real-ly mean go, go, go, go, go, GO!

Pno.

24

*mp*

Vo.

See, I e - ven got carr - ied a - way in this po - em.

Pno.

# How We Can All Have Fun

Text by students

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

When peo - ple think they're the boss of the game or

The first system of the musical score, measures 1-3. It features a vocal line in 4/4 time and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, and then a series of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody in the right hand that mirrors the vocal line.

4  
steal the ball push you and you fall or there's a big dis - a - gree - ment That's

The second system of the musical score, measures 4-6. The vocal line continues with eighth notes: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3. It includes a fermata over the eighth note G3. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

6  
whistle on last quarter really not fun at all Luck-i-ly there are things we can do so - lu - tions to be had like whistle

The third system of the musical score, measures 7-9. The vocal line includes a whistle on the last quarter of measure 7. The lyrics are: "really not fun at all Luck-i-ly there are things we can do so - lu - tions to be had like". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.



10

whistle

gi - ving some - one a se - cond chance with no - bo - dy get - ting mad

12

Luck-i - ly there are things we can do each and eve - ry one to

15

whistle

calm our - selves and breathe long breaths so we can all have fun!

Musical score for measures 18 and 19. The score consists of three staves: a vocal line (top), a piano right-hand line (middle), and a piano left-hand line (bottom). The vocal line contains two measures of whole rests. The piano accompaniment features eighth-note patterns in both hands, with a fermata over the final chord in measure 19.