Composed and Performed by
Ms. Graves's 4th Grade Classes

Classroom Cantatas

Neighborhood House Charter School

Identity

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 Neighborhood House Charter School
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Kate Scott, Executive Director
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Kumi Donaghue, Kay Patterson, Susan Navien, and Felicity Salmon
Classroom Cantatas Teaching Artists

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Identity Chorale

Karen Graves

Neighborhood House Charter School 4th Grade Classes, Felicity Salmon, Cantata Singers

I am who I am, I'm diff'rent than you u u u,

we're all diff'rent in our o wn ways. Like snow flakes, no

two are the same. So why is that? What

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makes us who we are?  What makes us who we are?  I -

den - ti - ty.  poco rit.  O - ur ap - pear - ances,

o - ur beliefs,  Fa - mily and fri - ends,  in - t'rests and hob -bies,

Our race, our culture, our tra - di - tions,  O - ur race, o - our
culture, our traditions, that’s what makes us who we are,

who we are. Our diff’rences, our similarities, our identity, identity, identity.
Image

Aimy, Amaré, Breanna, Connor, Hassan, Joshua, Josiah, Junica, Nyomi, Troy
with Daniel Rosensweig and Felicity Salmon, Cantata Singers

Karen Graves

bongo drum ad lib... shakers ad lib...

When you look at us, what do you see-

sticks ad lib...

Shades of brown, the color of caramel, cinnamon, hazelnut and chocolate.

My skin, soft like a cloud pale as the new fallen snow.

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A complexion of peach, glowing like the moon at its highest point.

sticks/shakers ad lib...

in the sky.

Hair that

curls like big ocean waves, black as night.

The color of honey.

and spiked like a porcupine.

And eyes that are brown gems.
glowing like the sun dreaming and seeing the big beautiful world.
What you see is our box of crayons.
Without one we would n't be complete.
Complete.

rit.

bongo drum ad lib to end...
a tempo
Hopes and Dreams

Karen Graves

Alicia, Jack, Jose, Maya, Myles, with Susan Navien and James Dargan, Cantata Singers

My hopes and dreams are vast!

I hope I will be able to explore the world!

Helping people,

and accomplishing good things.

Becoming the president who'll
change the world!  I wish I could see into the future

see-ing the good col-lege I'll at-tend:  Find-ing the so-lu-tion for world peace!

Be-ing a su-per he-ro;  Sav-ing the earth from e-vil!
I have high hopes and I dream big!
Where I'm From

Karen Graves

Greg, Jonas, Kerrie, Liam, Nekia, with Kumi Donaghue, Cantata Singers

Voice

Piano

We are from the streets of Boston and the

Midwest of Wisconsin the islands of Puerto Rico,

Haiti, Cape Verde and D R Việt nam, Colombia and

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Ireland, from eating curried chicken mac and cheese and wings to home-made bread and pies from loving families both large and small an only child to being a twin big
brothers, baby sisters, big sisters, baby brothers,

playing on the beaches to jumping in the snow

spoken:

listening to hip hop and pop to cheering on our home-town teams.
We are that and so much more.
Let us tell you about our favorite things movies that we love:

Give me Disney, comedy, the type of movies we love to see...

some

Star Wars... Ferris Bueller and even Twilight The Peanuts Gang and

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Minions and Finding Nemo That's right! Home Alone

Medea, and Mall Cop one and two! These are our favorites to

ff

name just a few! These are our favorites to name just a few!
Chapter books and fiction are things we can get lost in!

Heroes of Olympus and the only Ivan! Diary of a Wimpy Kid

and the book that's called The Twits and the book that's called The...
Twits

These are just a few great reads

We love burgers, chicken, chocolate... Get us pizza, Chinese food!

Ta-cos, home made chi-li and bur-ritos! we are al-ways in the mood! Mac and

cheese, lasagna and of course some buf-fa-lo wings These are just a few of our
fav’rites These are just a few of our fav’rites.

ff Spoken:

These are just a few of our fav’rites! Word!
Character Traits

Karen Graves

Andrew, Bryant, Jasmine, Laneiyah, Marcus with Kumi Donaghue, Cantata Singers

If you asked someone to describe us... what words might they use? Would they see all bouncy like a tennis ball

pos-i-tive or find faults that we have? So here are just a few of
what they might say...
We're nice witty and caring and

noisy passionate, funny and cute lazy

some may say we're kind, smart and helpful bossy
This is who we are.
When I Grow Up

Karen Graves  Alex, Amari, Anahya, Andy, Jake, Ryan with Susan Navien and James Dargan, Cantata Singers

Voice

When I grow up I will be a doctor, a detective, a teacher

Piano

strong strums

Vo.

I dream of being an actress in Hollywood. Or a

Pno.

dancer on Broadway!

When I graduate, I will go on to
big things
Teach-ing, learn-ing, be-ing.
I have dreams of

spoken:
what I will be when I'm old-er:
Bigger and bet-ter, Smart-er and wi-ser,

Fa-mous or not.
When I grow up I will go on to great things!
Great things!