Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School

Bicycle Cantata

Composed and Performed by Deejay Robinson’s 2nd Grade Classes

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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 is a Boston-based chorus and orchestra inspired by the musical genius of Johan Sebastian Bach. Our concerts explore relationships in music from the 17th century to today and invite exploration of Bach’s profound and continuing influence on our music, our culture, and ourselves.

Our education program teaches songwriting and choral singing to underserved Boston schoolchildren, guided by the belief that all children deserve the means to express their creative voices.

David Hoose, Music Director
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Classroom Cantatas at Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Shera Selzer, Lower School Director
Deejay Robinson, Music Teacher; Sylvia Elmer and Susan Kinsky, 2nd Grade Teachers

Kumi Donoghue, Susan Navien, Mary Joy Patchett, Kay Patterson, Ian Pomerantz, and Jane Wong, Classroom Cantatas Teaching Artists

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Messy Helmet Hair

Andreas, Charlay, Sydney, Justin - with Jane Wong

Bi-king up Mt. Everest in the afternoon

Icey snow

Hair got caught in the wheel

Hair got caught in the wheel

Wheel fell off the bike.

Wheel fell off the bike

Screw it back, I keep bi-king up.

Messy helmet hair flying.
Ti - red

legs

Windblow-ing a gainst my face,

Windblow-ing a gainst my face.

Sca-ry lea-nin-g turns.

Sca-ry lea-nin-g turns, turns, turns.

Ex - haus-ted

Learn - ing how to steer.
Tired Legs

Text by students

Cally, Conor, Maya, Tanner, Francisco and Mary Joy Patchett, Cantata Singers

D          A          D
Ti - red Legs Back - reaching for the hand - le bars

A          G          D          A          D
Warm sun, cool breeze on my face Low whistle as it passes my ears Look - ing for - ward

A          D          E          A7          D          A          D
ne - ver back sweating like rain down your face al - ways towards a des - ti - na - tion
Messy (Sad Version)

Andreas, Charlay, Sydney, Justin

with Jane Wong, Cantata Singers

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Wheel fell off the bike  Screw it back,  I keep bi-king up.

Wheel fell off the bike  Screw it back,  I keep bi-king up.
Feeling Free

Text by students
Gordon, Marina, Tess, Langon, Quinn, with Ian Pomerantz, Cantata Singers

Voice

Cold air inside my lungs difficult shifting turning.

Piano

Wind racing towards me. Flying faster than the wind.

Vo.

Biking through a field or sidewalk an alley woods or road.

Pno.
Heart racing quickly quickly Riding just for riding.

Feeling free! Feeling free!