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
Jennifer Ritvo Hughes, Executive Director
Emily Kirk Weddle, Development and Marketing Manager
Michelle Rush, Education and Production Manager
Bridget Dennis, Operations Manager

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Classroom Cantatas at Mather Elementary School, Dorchester, Massachusetts
Rochelle Nwosu, Principal
Maria Brooks, Karen King, Lauren Lucero, Songkhla Nguyen, Desiree White, 2nd Grade Teachers

Shaw Pong Liu, Eve Boltax, Ian Pomerantz, Jane Wong and Sara Wyse-Wenger,
Classroom Cantatas Teaching Artists

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Poem by Robert Lee

The Voice of Freedom

Mather School - Lucas, Josiah, Nhi, Jacquelyn, Dailine with Jane Wong

I am the voice that is heard every day.
I am the voice that speaks with great pride.

Each day I struggle to get segregation away.
Segregation will be cast a-way.

I am the voice that is heard every day where pride.
I am the voice that speaks with great pride.

Each day I struggle to get segregation away.
Segregation will be cast a-way.
from here.

I am the voice that men call upon for

Unity, for Brotherhood, for Now, for Eternity

I am the voice of freedom.

Gain-ing me is America's task.

Through striving and sacrifice, Segregation will be un

masked.

Gain-ing me is America's task.

Through striving and
sacrifice, Segregation will be unmasked.
What Does Freedom Mean?

From poem by Madeline McHugh

Amelia, Jonathan, Kien, Margot, Mariah and Naizir
with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

\[ j = 80 \]

When-er-ev-er I think a-bout sun-light and fresh air, or

peace and springtime, I think a-bout people want-ing to be free.

Free-dom real-ly is pre-cious._
Freedom really is__ precious__ Freedom really is__

There are people who want freedom all their lives and never get it.

There are people who have freedom all their lives and never know it.

But

2017 Cantata Singers
I think people who know they are free and try to help others get it.

Show how precious freedom really is.
Fight on little children fight on. You know what you're doing is right. Don't stop! Keep straight ahead. You're just bound to win the fight. Many
hardships there will be
Many trials you'll have to face
But go on, little children keep fighting.
Soon freedom will take hardships place
Fight on, little children fight on.
You know what you're doing is right.
Don't stop! Keep straight ahead. You're just bound to win the fight!

You're just bound to win the fight! You're just bound to win the fight!
Didn't Come Into This World To Be a Slave

Jareyliz, Devonte, Jossylene, Omari, Davianna, Felice and Ms. Shaw Pong, Cantata Singers

Energetic  \( j = 132 \)

Harriet Tubman didn't take no stuff, wasn't scared of no thing neither. Didn't come into this world to be a slave and wasn't gonna stay one ei-

Cantata Singers 2017
- ther Fare - well she sang to her friends one night She was migh-ty sad to

leave'em But she ran a-way that dark hot night Ran loo-king for her free-dom!

Nine - teen times she went back south To save three hun - dred o - thers She

ran for her free - dom nine - teen times to save Black sis - ters and bro - thers!
Harriet Tub mandid-n't take no stuff, wasn't scared of no thing neither, Did-n't come into this world to be a slave and wasn't gon-na stay one ei ther and was--n't gon--na stay one ei ther