Composed and Performed by Lauren Lucero’s 2nd Grade Class

Classroom Cantatas

Mather Elementary School

Justice Cantata

© Cantata Singers, 2017
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

729 Boylston St, Suite 405, Boston, MA 02116
cantatasingers.org | 617.868.5885

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

© 2017 Cantata Singers
Standing Tall  poetry by Jamie McKenzie
Mather School - Deuvlanny, Katie, Vivian, Angel, Tiffany, Janety with Jane Wong

Standing Tall

Some Kings rule their Kingdom

King

Sit round by luxury, soft cushion

and fans

and fans

This King stood strong, stood proud, stood tall. Speaking

and fans

and fans

This King stood strong, stood proud, stood tall. Speaking

and fans

and fans

This King stood strong, stood proud, stood tall. Speaking

and fans

and fans

This King stood strong, stood proud, stood tall. Speaking

and fans

and fans

This King stood strong, stood proud, stood tall. Speaking

king of peace, of love and children hand in hand heart to heart free at last.

When the driver told Rosa

"Move to the end of the bus."

Cantata Singers, 2016
When the dri-ver told students,

We don't serve your kind. We don't serve your kind.

King stood strong, stood proud, stood tall, speak ing of peace, of love, and children, hand in hand heart to heart, free at last. King stood strong, stood proud, stood tall, speak ing of peace, of love, and children, hand in hand heart to heart, free at last. Free-doom free-dom let it rings, let it rings says Doc-tor King.
From poem by Charles R. Smith Jr.

I Am America

Faith, Josiah, Josoel, Sophia, Sydney
with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

I am I am I am America I am America. I am proud.

I am diverse, soft spoken and loud. I am almond eyes. I am a proud nose. I am

cheeks freckled the color of a rose I am jet black hair. I am olive skin
I am my grand-father's dim-ples framing my grin. I am big baggy jeans. I am bank-

dan-na wraps I am blue denim jack-ets. I am back-wards base-ball caps. I am rhythm.

I am blues__ I am coun-try, I am soul I am jazz I am hip-hop I am grunge rock and

roll I am candy cane-sticks. I am ice-cream smiles I am lol-li-poplicks
I am warm apple pie I am a new branch sprouting in my majestic family tree

I am America and America is me.
Different Cultures

Text by students

Leureanny, Isabella, Linda, Mason, Aunalei, Santos, with Ian Pomerantz

We come from different cultures, and we're all different colors. We come from different religions. We come from different places. We are girls and we are boys. We speak different languages. But we all have bodies.
We all live! We all breathe the same air. We all have feelings. We all sleep.
It Is Up To Us

Lamarques, Harkin, Ha, Gaelle, Thy, Hien and Ms. Shaw Pong, Cantata Singers

\( \text{\textit{\textbf{j} = 96}} \)

Tell me my sibling, my friend, my ally,
Why do we have to oppose?

To fight?
To hurt and to destroy one another?
Are our seas really that narrow?

Our oceans that small?
Our lands so limited to contain us all?

Or
is it the case that Our hearts are not big enough, Our minds too small to con-
tain all human kind? Listen to me my ether self! It is up to us to change this world Try to make it a better, kinder and more caring world!