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 flourish 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
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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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What is Kindness

Anh, Kevin, Gia, Ethan, Roman and Robson with Jane Wong, Cantata Singers

Text by students

Hmmmm
It's
It's
an
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per-
son
will-
ing
to
can-
be-
ing

not
viol-
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friend-
s.

It
is

don-
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When
I
play

when
I
play

It is
be-
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nice
to
all
peo-
ple,

not
mak-
ing
fun
or
laugh-
ing
at

Cantata Singers 2017
them. Kindness is all these things - Be kind at school,

Be kind everywhere It helps so much - When we show we care.

when we show we really care.
Even Small Acts

Text by students

Ahn, Dajanera, Jayquene, Johnny, Mark, Vincent
Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

Voice

Piano

Treat others kindly. Even small actions can change the world.
Treat others kindly. Even small thoughts can change the world.

Even small acts can change the world.
Friendship, open hearts.

Cantata Singers, 2017
Each kindness ripples out like water. Each kindness ripples out like water.

Makes everyone feel very good. Rip—rip—ripple rip—rip—ripple

Plop plop plop plop plop plop plop plop plop plop plop plop plop.

Feeling kind helps us understand how other people may be feeling. Being kind can help our
friends. Treat others kindly. Even small thoughts can change the world.

Even small acts can change the world.
Growing Kindness

Minh Phuong, Phat, Tina, Nguyen, Elijah, Prince, Syannie, with Ms. Shaw Pong, Cantata Singers

\( j = 72 \)

Kind hearts are the garden

Kind thoughts are the roots

Kind words are the blossoms
Kind deeds are the fruits
Love is the sunshine
That warms into life
For only in darkness grow hatred and strife
Kind hearts are the garden
Kind thoughts are the roots
Kind words are the blossoms
Kind deeds are the fruits
Kind Hearts

Anh H., Angeline, Jessica, and Viet
with Ian Pomerantz, Cantata Singers

Kind hearts are
gar-dens. Kind thoughts are roots. Kind words are blossoms.

Kind deeds are fruits. Love is the sweet sun-shine that warms into

Cantata Singers 2017
life - for only in darkness,
grow hatred and strife.
when I dropped my crayon box in rain-bow slivers on

the floor one person came to help me gather rolling crayons sixty-four

crawling on our hands and knees we picked up bits of green and blue when

Cantata Singers 2017
some one else spills all their crayons
I will stop to help them too