Composed and Performed by
Karen King's 2nd Grade Class

Classroom Cantatas

Mather Elementary School

Nation of Immigrants Cantata

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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 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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We All Have a Heritage  Poetry by Sandy Lynne Holman

Mather School  -  Nevaeh, Zion, Sophia, Joshua, Gavin, Jadilson with Jane Wong

We all have a Heritage, yes, this is true.

We all have a Heritage, yes, this is true.

Doesn't matter if your skin is black, white yellow, brown, red, purple or blue.

All of us have a history, where people did great things.

Most of us came from countries, where there were once Queens and
We all have ancestors,
who lived long ago. Some we may remember, And some we don't know.

We all have special traditions, a place from where we came — People from the distant past gave most of us our last names.

We all have a heritage, Yes, this is...
true. We all have a Heritage, yes, this is true.

A capella

Doesn't matter if your skin is black, white, yellow, brown, red purple or blue.
from a poem by
Sandy Lynn Holman

Sharing Our Heritage

Damian, Katalina, Louis, Lyla and Mariama,
with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

Traditional clothes honor our rich roots, but

inside we are the same through and through.

Different colors, different looks on faces

Still just human beings that come from different places.
Let us learn about each other, and the different things we do, and share what we have in common. Both in me and in you. When we share our heritage, we learn from the start how to respect different people and keep love in our hearts.

Cantata Singers, 2017
Old, young, black or white; Dif-ferent peo-ple but the same rights.

Male, fe-male, big or small. Does-n't real-ly mat-ter at all. Rich, poor, you must see, it's

time to cele-brate di-ver-si-ty. Old, you, black or white, that can't be a reason for us to fight.
Male, fe-male big or small, it real-ly does-n't mat-ter at all. Look at our dif-fer-ence they're
clear to see; That's what makes us spe-cial, you and me!
What Makes Us Different

Soryha, Rishad, Trang, Sanii, Devin and Ms. Shaw Pong, Cantata Singers

\( j=96 \)

Let us count the ways
Our gods and our religions
Our language or our age

What makes us different?
Let us count the ways
The clothes that we wear
Our

skin or our hair
an accent or a phrase

Al though we are so different
In---
side we are the same, Respect traditions and beliefs Respect all hopes and dreams

Let's get together and learn from all around No need to fight or criticize Hand in hand, let's harmonize!