Composed and Performed by Shawniece Higginbottom and Jenna Kelley’s 2nd Grade Classes

Classroom Cantatas

Mendell Elementary School

Community Cantata

cantata
cantatas

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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 Mendell Elementary School, Roxbury, Massachusetts
Julia Bott, Principal
Shawnice Higginbottom, and Jenna Kelley, 2nd Grade Teachers

James Dargan, Devon Morin, Rachel Panitch, and Sara Wyse-Wenger,
Classroom Cantatas Teaching Artists

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Mendell Chorale: Shine Your Stars

Shine your stars, friends, shine your stars!

Be good, be calm, breathe and think the earth is ours.

We are the earth, it is the source of all our power;

We......
we are in it for ours.
Listen Children

from poem by Lucille Clifton

\[
j = 80
\]

Chiara, Jisneidy, Johnny, Josiah, Kylah

with Devon Morin, Cantata Singers

Voices

\[
\text{Listen children, keep this in the place you have for keeping. Always. We have been ashamed.}
\]

Piano

\[
\text{hopeless tired mad but always}
\]

Cantata Singers, 2017
A11 ways, ______ we loved us
We have always loved each other

children, always pass it on.
Blessing the Boats
Poem by Lucille Clifton

Eliza, Declan, Hamdi, Gwen and Maeve
with Rachel Panitch, Cantata Singers

Voice

Piano

May you carry you out
now beyond the face of fear. May you

Ooh ooh ooh
May the tide that is entering even

May you carry you out beyond the face of fear. May you
Vo.

kiss the wind
then turn from it
certain that it will love your

Pno.


Vo.

back.
May you open your eyes to water
waving far-

Pno.


Vo.

ever.
And may you in your innocence sail through this to that.

Pno.


Cantata Singers, 2017
Shine your stars

Asa, Eleanor, Lyra, Riley, Sevastian

with James Dargan, Cantata Singers

Cantata Singers, 2017
we are all on the same level
saw by the grown it's a

promise we are equal we are equal is n't that right?

shine your stars, friends show us how you shine.
How Do You Make a Song

James Dargan

Dhalia, Bija, Miangelis, Nico and Maurice
with Rachel Panitch, Cantata Singers

How do you make a song that makes people sing along?

You put different things together.

Words, music, a beat and a bit of emotion set it in the moment.
motion

sing it round and strong!
Good Food

James Dargan and Sara Wyse-Wenger

Ethan, Evie, Genesee, Hafsa, Kaylin
with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

Do you like cooking? Do you like

Do you like cooking? Do you like

good food, my friend? Good food, you friend?

Good cooking is nice to mix! Add spices and turn up the heat to

2017 Cantata Singers
bring the best from the food so we can all eat! Add spices and turn up the heat.
so we can eat! so we can eat! So-ur, sal-ty, spi- cy and sweet,
Taste can give us so much en-er-gy Hot and spi- cy, hot and yum-my,
Share your favorite recipe.
Good cooking is nice to eat.
Add spices and turn up the heat.

Cook together, eat together. We make a community.

Good cooking is nice to eat. Add spices and turn up the heat.
Cook together, Eat together, We make a community.
from poem by Lucille Clifton

Listen Children

Hava, Iris, James, Nova, Yomar

with Sara Wyse-Wenger, Cantata Singers

\[ \text{Hmmm hmmm, hmm hmm hmm hmmm. Listen children} \]

Keep this in the place you have for keeping Always all ways.

Listen children keep this in the place but always

Cantata Singers, 2017
all ways we loved us. Always the com-
mun-i-ty will love each oth-
er. Always the com-
mun-i-ty will love each oth-
er.

Hmmm hmm, hmm hmm Hmm Hmm. Listen__ children

Cantata Singers, 2017
keep this in the place you have for keep-ing al-ways. All ways

pass it on, pass it on!
The Power of One

Ezra, Gianni, Maddie, Pru, Skylei
with Devon Morin, Cantata Singers

Ashish Ram

One song can spark a moment,
One whisper can wake the dream,

One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring,

One nation, one sunbeam lights a room
One candle wipes out darkness,

Cantata Singers, 2017
laugh will conquer gloom. One step must start each journey one

word must start each pray'r, One hope will raise our spirits, One

voice can speak with wisdom. One heart can know what's true, One

life can make a difference, You see, it's up to you.
Listen, Children

From Poem by Lucille Clifton

Ava, Bea, Dylan, Leon, Onaxys
with James Dargan, Cantata Singers

We have been ashamed hopeless mad, but always all ways we
loved us we have always loved each other
we have al-ways loved each oth - er

children al - ways

pass it on pass it on pass it on

pass it on pass it on pass it on

pass it on pass it on