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

Come Together Cantata

Mather Elementary School

Classroom Cantatas

Cantata Singers, 2018
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 309, Boston, MA 02116
cantatasingers.org | 617.868.5885

To download audio files from the Classroom Cantatas Final Performances at the Boston Children’s Museum, please go to:
http://www.cantatasingers.org/classroom-cantatas-2018

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Mather Elementary School
Rochelle Nwosu, Principal
Jenny Herzog, Lead Teaching Artist
Sam Talmadge, Accompanist
Karen King, Lauren Lucero, Songkhla Nguyen, Lea-Antoinette Serena,
Classroom Teachers

Come Together Cantata
Ms. King’s
2nd Grade Class

Diversity Means Difference
Composed by Kadija Seck, Kaylee Walsh, Alex Moreno,
Charles Berg, Stephanie Rivas, with Daniel Rosensweig

Black or White
Composed by Jaida Simmons, Miles Stephens, Demetrius Gordon,
Isaiah Depina, Jamila Amado, Elliot Zelmer Wu, with Sam Talmadge

I am Light, I am Light
Composed by Malean Oliveira, Samara Reid, Kathy Tran,
Abimael Sanchez III, Jamario Fuentes, Tayshawn Butler, with Itai Gal

Beautiful Rhythms
Composed by Anijah Turner, Jai Richardson,
Nikko King, Savannah Barton, with Jenny Herzog
Diversity Means Difference

Kadija, Kylee, Alex, Charlie, and Stephanie, with Daniel Rosensweig at Mather Elementary School

Lyrics by Brenna

Guitar intro: B♭ F/C C F B♭ Vocals

Old and young should come together. All conflict should stop for- ever. It doesn’t matter what we wear, The color of our skin.

B♭ C F C F

How we wear our hair Or how we speak. Diversity means difference!

F C E♭ D♭ B♭ F/C C

I think it’s all right to be fat or thin, black or white. It doesn’t matter to

F

Me me me me me me me me!

Clap (or dab?)

2018 Cantata Singers
Black or White

Alex

Jaida, Miles, Demetrius, Isaiah, Jamila, Elliot
with Sam Talmadge, Cantata Singers

© Cantata Singers 2018
all join together to have some fun we

rapping

black or white who really cares

(clapping)
not me not you we stop and share tall or small old or young we all join to-gether to

have some fun rich or poor boy or girl we

celebrate our diff’rences in this bright world!
I Am Light

music by Malean, Samara, Kathy, AJ, Jamario, and Tayshawn
Itai Gal, Cantata Singers

lyrics by Langston Hughes

I am light I am light I am light
I am not the things my family did. I am not the voices in my head. I am
not the pieces of the broken-ness inside I am light. I am light
I am not the mistakes that I have made or
any of the things that caused me pain. I am not the pieces of the
dream I left behind I am light. I am not the color of my
eyes I am not the skin on the outside. I am not my age I am not my race my soul inside is all light. I a-a-a-m light I a-a-a-m light I a-a-a-m light I a-a-a-m light I a-a-a-m light.
Beautiful Rhythms
Anijah, Jai, Nikko, Djyela, Savannah

Jenny Herzog
with Jenny Herzog

So many colors, so many shapes, so many thoughts, so many faiths

So many voices, singing their songs, so many languages, each one belongs

As we go walking we can create beautiful rhythms to stomp out hate

Some people argue some people fight, I know what's better I know what's right

All of our voices singing as one, All of our bodies dancing for fun

As we go walking we can create beautiful rhythms to stomp out hate

Join with your neighbor come on let's go voices together fast and then slow

As we go walking we can create beautiful rhythms to stomp out hate

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