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

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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

Home to One and All Cantata

Faces of My People
Composed by Jonathan Tavares, Abiye Seyoum, Chaika Ibekwe,
Lily Paret, Miriam Martins, with Itai Gal

Differences Make Life Beautiful
Composed by Patrick Angell, Noah Powell, Sheila Goncalves,
Jeane Matias, Kyleigh Taylor, with Daniel Rosensweig

Reach Out Your Hand
Composed by Julius Seibel, Luis Santiago, Anyah Gaskins,
Andrea Henderson, Samaira Cardoso, with Jenny Herzog

Mather Elementary
Composed by Jedidias Nunes, Armani Soto, Maliah Bachier,
Madisyn Glynn, Harmonie Berrios, with Sam Talmadge
My People

music by Jonatha, Abiye, Chaika, Lily, and Miriam
Itai Gal, Cantata Singers

lyrics by Langston Hughes and Ms. Serena's Class

The night is beautiful and so the
faces of my people.
The Earth is beautiful and so the
hearts of my people.

The stars are beautiful and so the
eyes of my people.
The sea is beautiful and so the
lives of my people.

Beautiful also is the sun,
Beautiful also is the music

beautiful also are the souls of my people the
beautiful also are the cultures of my people.
Differences Make Life Beautiful
Patrick, Noah, Sheila, Jeane, and Kyleigh,
with Daniel Rosensweig at Mather Elementary School

Imagine for a second a world where those you see look just like one another. You look just like me.

All the same opinions. All of the same clothes. All the same skin color.

How then would we grow? Oooh Differences make life beautiful.

I can learn from you. Differences make life beautiful. Obrigado, thank you!

Differences make life beautiful. You can learn from me.

Differences make life beautiful. Togetherness we become free.

Now just look around you. So many people to meet. So many people and languages.

Diversity is sweet!

2018 Cantata Singers
Reach Out Your Hand

Julius, Luis, Anyah, Andrea, Samaira

with Jenny Herzog

You have the power to brighten,
somebody else's dark day

If you see somebody hurting,
if you see somebody sad,

Reach out your hand give a smile,

until that someone is glad

out your hand to your neighbor,

out your hand to your friend

out your hand to your classmate

Peace and respect you shall send

People of all nationalities,
languages, religions too

All of us smile in one language, so here is a smile for you

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Reach Out Your Hand

F                                           C                                       C                                    F
17 F                                      C                                C                              F
out your hand to your friend,            Re--e-ach out your hand to your
Bb                                       F                                F                              Bb
classmate Peace and re - spect you shall send,
F                                              Bb                                    C                                    F
Peace and re - spect you shall send, Peace and re-
23 F                                      Bb                            C                                    F
pect you shall send
Our parents and their parents came from far away. Ended up in Boston which is

where they'll stay Mather Elementary. Home to one and

all Mather Elementary. We stand proud and
tall To-geth-er we are strong-er to-geth-er we learn more

peace re-spect acc ept-ance are what we're fight-ing for Ma-ther El-e-

ment-ary Home to one and all Ma-ther El-e-
We stand proud and tall.