Composed and Performed by
Lea-Antoinette Serena’s 2nd Grade Class

Mather Elementary School

Let America Be America Cantata

Classroom Cantatas

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About Classroom Cantatas

Cantata Singers has valued underrepresented music since its inception—be it performing works by lesser-known composers, commissioning new music, or bringing vitally-needed music education to Boston's school children through the Classroom Cantatas program. Classroom Cantatas is unique in its commitment to creation over imitation. Instead of teaching children to reproduce the music and styles of another time and tradition, Classroom Cantatas gives students the tools to create and express themselves using their own musical voice. Residencies, which extend from November through April, begin with classroom teachers suggesting composition themes that are meaningful to the students and their communities; past topics have included Bullying, Mythology, Identity, and Diversity. During this initial phase, teaching artists give students lessons in music fundamentals, and then in small groups, often inclusive of special education and English language learners, children are guided as they use their newfound vocabulary to create tuneful and memorable songs. This second chapter is an intimate and collaborative process that inspires engagement in the classroom and beyond, as students are challenged to look at the world with nuance, creativity, and confidence by analyzing texts and developing meaning through the language of music. In the final phase of the residency, the students regroup as a unit to rehearse and perform their songs; which as a whole form their classroom cantata. After sharing their pieces with their school communities, the participants from residencies across the city come together for a special day of performance and celebration at the Boston Children's Museum. The musical scores and performance recordings are preserved in our online library for all to enjoy.

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.

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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.catatasingers.org/classroom-cantatas-2019

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Let America Be America

Part 1

Let America be America again.

Let it be the dream it used to be.

Let it be the pioneer on the plain.

Seeking a home where he himself is free.

Let America

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be the dream the dream-ers dreamed. Let it be that great strong land of love. Where ne-ver kings con-nive nor ty-rants scheme. That a-ny man be crushed by one a-bove.
LET AMERICA BE AMERICA
Lyrics adapted from a poem by Langston Hughes
Music composed by Bithyah Israel, Kevontae, Kevin, Jasmin, Angel

Let America Be America Let America Be America
(CHORUS)

Make America a land where freedom never ends! Let our land be a
(Verse 1)

land of opportunity, Let our land be a land of freedom,
Make America a land where freedom never ends! Let America

Be America Let America Be America Make America a

land where freedom never ends! Let our land be a land of equality, (Verse 2)
Let our land be a land where life is free, Make Amer-i-ca a land where freedom never ends!

Let Amer-i-ca Be Amer-i-ca Let Amer-i-ca

(CHORUS)

Be Amer-i-ca Make Amer-i-ca a land where freedom never ends! Oh,
let our land be a land where freedom never ends!

(tenderly)

(a capella)
For all the dreams we've dreamed, and all the songs we've sung, and all the hopes we've held, and all the flags we've hung, the millions who have nothing for our pay, except the dream that's almost dead today.

Spoken

For all the dreams we've dreamed, and all the songs we've sung.

Tapped
For All the Dreams We've Dreamed

all the hopes we've held and all the flags we've hung, the millions who have nothing for our

pay except the dream that's almost dead today.
Let America Be America

John, Zeke, Kamaiyah, Duyen, Nayaliz, with Alex Lee-Clark, Cantata Singers

Voice

O, let America Be America again.

Piano

The land the never has been yet and yet must be. The

Voice

land where every man and every woman is free.

Piano

The
Voice

land that's mine the poor man's In-di-an's Ne-gro's ME. Who made___ A

Pno.

Voice

Who made___ A-mer-i-ca. Who made___ A

Pno.

Voice

mer-i-ca. Who made___ A-mer-i-ca. Whose sweat and blood whose

Pno.
Voice

faith and pain whose hand at the foun-dry whose plow in the rain

Pno.

Voice

Must bring back our mighty dream again.

Pno.

Voice

We must take back our land again. The
27
Voice
land the mines the plants the ri- vers—_ the

Pno.

29
Voice
moun-tains and the end-less plain. All the stretch of these great green states and

Pno.

31
Voice
make A-mer-i-ca A-gain. And make A-mer-i-ca A-

Pno.
Voice

And make America again.

Pno.

Voice

And make America again.

Pno.