Classroom Cantatas

Mather Elementary School

Out of Many We Are One Cantata

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

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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.cantatasingers.org/classroom-cantatas-2019

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When our families came to America they each had their own cause:
some escaping from problems or war, some from unfair laws. Some wanted to pray in their own way, some answered freedom's
call. Some came from Africa against their will, the most unfair of
all. We try to make things better today, ever
more free and fair. Like our families we seek a better world for all to
share. We can live and learn together, Out of many we are one. We can love and change for better, E pluribus Unum.
We All Have a Heritage

Text by Sandy Lynne Holman

We all have a heritage yes this is true. Your skin could be black, white brown, purple blue. All of us have history where people did great things.

Most of us from countries once ruled by kings and queens. We all have ancestors, who

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lived long a-go. Some we re-mem-ber, and some we don't know. We all have tra-di-tions, and a
place from whence we came, and peo-ple from the past, gave most of us our names. We
all have a her-ri-tage yes this is true. Your skin could be black white brown pur-ple blue. We
all have special languages so that we can all speak, and some of us have holidays that keep us unique. We all eat food, prepared in various ways. And we all have music, to dance through the days. We all have a heritage yes this is true. we yes this is true.
OUR FAMILY COMES FROM 'ROUND THE WORLD

Music by Bithyah Israel, Arianna, Eliannah, Hector, Leonel, Natalia

Our hair is straight, our hair is curled, our eyes are brown, our eyes are blue, our skins are different colors, too. We're girls and boys, we're big and small, we're young and old, we're short and tall, we're every thing that
we can be, and still we are a family! We laugh and cry, we

work and play, we help each other every day the world's a lovely

place to be, because we are a family! Hurrah hurrah, hur-

rit........

rit........
rah hur-ree! We're one big hap-py fam-i-ly— one big hap-py fam-i-ly!
Voice

Piano

No Difference

Heldyra, Jaden, Lyemaja, Elijah, Sekai, with Alex Lee-Clark, Cantata Singers

\[ j = 120 \]

We're all the same size
When you turn off the light,
when you turn off the light. Woo!

Rich as a sultan Poor as a mite

We're all worth the same When you turn off the light,
when you turn off the light. Woo!

Red, black, or orange

Yellow or

White. We all look the same. When you turn off the light,
when you turn off the light. Woo!

So maybe the way to make everything right

Is for us to just reach out,
can we turn off the light let's just turn off the light Woo!