Mendell Elementary

Take Agency Cantata

A Mighty Force for Good Cantata

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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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Stand Up for the Trees!

Lily, Fiona and Michelle

Ethan, Ryan, Naliyah, Nella and Ismael with Kumi Donag"hve, Cantata Singers

Andante

We are the Lo-rax, we speak for the trees

If you care a-bout this earth,
don't hurt them please

Use ev-erysquare inch,

use care when you write

Pa-per comes from trees,
so do the thing that's right

Cantata Singers 2019
Plants, animals, flowers too
They are important, they help us too

But for any of them to survive
They need water to help them thrive

So remember, we are the Lorax, we speak for the trees
If
you care about this earth, take care of them, please! Save the water they drink, re-

use and recycle. We can be the ones who stop the cycle!
Moderato ($\frac{\text{d}}{\text{c.}} \, 102$)

Tupac Shakur

Rose from the Concrete

Lelia, Cristian, Henry, Solana, Ivismar, Abdullahi with Jane Wong, Cantata Singers

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Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air.

A little faster (M.M. $\bullet = c.108$)

Long live the rose that grew from cement, long live the rose that grew from a crack, when no one else cared, when no one else cared.
Here's to kids who are different, the kids who don't always get A's. The kids who have ears twice the size of their peers and noses that go on for days.

Here's to the kids who are different, the kids they call crazy or dumb, the...
Kids Who are Different

kids who don't fit with the guts and the grit, who dance to a different drum.

Here's to the kids who are different, the kids with the mischievous streak, for

when they have grown, as history's shown, their differences make them unique! Meow!
It Couldn't Be Done

Some-body said that it couldn't be done
But he with a chuck-le replied
That "may-be it couldn't" but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so 'til he'd tried.
So he buck-led right in with a trace of a grin on his
face*. If he worried he hid it. He started to sing as he tackled the thing. That

*some students hold "face" on G until here.

couldn't be done and he did it! he did it! There are thousands to tell you it

cannot be done, There are thousands to prophesy failure There are thousands to point out to
you one by one, The dangers that wait to assail you. But just buckle in with a
bit of a grin, Just take off your coat and go to it; Just start in to sing as you
tackle the thing That "cannot be done," and you'll do it. You'll do it. You'll
do it. You'll do it.
Mighty Force for Good!

Andante

I can be a force for good everywhere I go

In the classroom I persist, distractions I resist When I see my partner

struggling to find the gist I say don't give up, dig in, find your inner grit!
When I'm on the playground, fairness is the key
Giving help to those who need it.

It is true equity, running to the teacher and asking for a bandage.

Whenever someone falls and cries, I've real-ly-skined my knee!
In the
cafe-ti-a there's lots that can be done

If someone does not have enough,

I will share and give him some
when we've eaten, laughed and stuffed our faces

(speaking)
Though I am in second grade,
there's nothing standing in my way

We look around for spills and trash and

clean up our places
I'm a mighty force for good
in my own neighborhood!
The Voice

Dziko, River, Ahliviah, Vivian, Caleb with Jane Wong, Cantata Singers

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this is right for me, I know that

this is wrong. No teacher,

preacher, parent, friend, or wise man
can decide what's right for you. Just listen to the voice that speaks inside. No teacher,
preacher, parent, friend, or wise man

can decide, what's right for

you. Just listen to the voice that
The Voice

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speaks inside.
If I was a Superhero

Elijah, Yordin, Rutherford, Adah and Ziggy with Rafael Natan

(Text by Sally Gray)

Briskly $\frac{\text{q}}{4} = 120$

If I was a super-her-o I'd definite-ly fly.
Arms outstretched, rac-ing birds in the
out-stretched rac-ing

If I was a super-her-o I'd have special-pow-ers, like ex-tra strong legs, for

jump-ing over towers.

If I was a super-her-o I'd save all the o-ceans with my

©
If I was a Superhero

secret, and magical cleaning up potions. If I was a super-her-o I'd save all the trees, the

mountains and rivers, the birds and the bees. If I was a super-her-o

I'd help all the poor, give them food and make them hun-gry, no more.
If I was a Superhero

I'm sure you'd agree, the world would be better,
because of me!
How I Use My Voice

Michelle Rush

Talia, Carlos, Roland, Shukri, Seth, with Rachel Panitch, Cantata Singers

swing eighths

There's a kid at my school
They think they

make all the rules
I know that is just not right

I'm gon-na use my voice
I'm
gon-na use my voice
I'm gon-na use my voice
I'm
gon-na use my voice to fight
I will not sit down!

Cantata Singers, 2019
I will not hush up! Most of all I will not give up!
A round the world girls can't go to school I know that it's just not cool
I know now that it's my right I'm gon-na use my voice to fight
I will not sit down! I will not hush up! Most of all I will not
give up! Most of all I will not give up! In some places
water looks green Chem-i-cals and lead are'n't clean Drink-ing wa-ter
is a right I'm gon-na use my voice to fight I will not sit down! I will
not hush up! Most of all I will not give up! Most of all I will not give up!
So many people to invite
To join me in my peaceful fight

Till we all have equal rights
I'm gonna use my voice to light!

I will not sit down!
I will not hush up!
Most of all I will not give up!

Most of all I will not give up!