



Cantare Con Vivo

Cantare Children's Choirs is the community outreach component of one of Oakland's finest choral ensembles, Cantare Con Vivo. This school year, Cantare celebrates its 10th year of working with kindergarten through 10th-grade students. Cantare provides incomparable choral music instruction to students in Oakland who have very limited access to arts education.

With free choral programs at public schools in Oakland, including Lincoln and Cleveland elementary schools, Cantare serves 1,000 students weekly. Julie Haydon, director of the Choirs, explains that students who regularly participate and are exposed to high-quality music education develop increased self-esteem and pride. By learning a variety of international folk songs, students gain an appreciation for the rich diversity of Oakland. By engaging in this art form, students gain invaluable tools they carry with them far beyond the choral room. They learn discipline and focus as well as the art of teamwork.

Gaining an appreciation for international folk songs and cross-cultural music, students develop talent while building confidence, leadership skills and an awareness of a broader community. This type of musical instruction has a greater impact for students academically; they are building vocabulary, reading and social skills.

In addition to the elementary programs, Cantare has two performing choirs: the All Star Singers and Nova Treble. The All Star Singers is an auditioned choir for students in grades six through 10. Now entering its fifth year, the choir consists of 30 middle- and high-school singers from 10 Oakland schools. This ensemble includes advanced singers who have graduated from Cantare's elementary program.

Mayari Hardman, a junior at Oakland Military Institute, has been singing with Cantare since the second grade. Hardman, a self-proclaimed "shy girl," is now a member of the All Star Singers and Nova Treble. She credits Cantare with helping her make long-lasting friendships and build her confidence. While Hardman is still a soft-spoken young woman, she believes that "the support and encouragement I get from Cantare has helped me overcome my reluctance to sing solos. The choir is like my whole life."

With support from Clorox, Cantare Con Vivo will continue to reach 1,000 students per week, enriching their lives with the sound of music.

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