



Coventry Schools'
Cultural Cantata

2021

Lyrics

Coventry Schools' Cultural Cantata

1. Living in Coventry
2. Remember Not to Forget
3. Jet Man
4. We're Coventry Cars
5. Cycling Around
6. Clocks Ticking
7. Starley's Inventions
8. City Walls
9. Godiva Muses
10. The Lady Godiva

1. Living in Coventry

- A.** Please, step inside, join the ride, back thro' time and place.
Come and explore with a **musical** tour, round our City of Culture.
- Please, step inside, join the ride, back thro' time and place.
Come and explore with a **magical** tour, round our City of Culture.
- B.** C'mon... You! C'mon... Teacher! C'mon... Tricycle! C'mon... Semiquaver! (*repeat*)
- C. Voice 1:** Living in Coventry, ooh! Living in Coventry, ooh! (*repeat*)
Voice 2 & M.C.: Living in Coventry. Living in Coventry. (*repeat*)
- D. Voice 1:** Living in Coventry. (x5)
Voice 2: Living in Coventry. (x5)
M.C.: Godiva. (x4)
- E. Voice 1:** Living in Coventry, ooh! Living in Coventry, ooh! (*repeat*)
Voice 2: Living in Coventry, living in Coventry. (*repeat*)
M.C.: Stop your messing around, better think of your future.
Time you straightened right out, better think of your future.
- F. Voice 1:** Twenty-twenty, twenty-twenty-one (*repeat*) Twenty-twenty, twenty-twenty one today! (x3)
Voice 2: Twenty-twenty, twenty-twenty, twenty-one, twenty-one today! (x3)
M.C.: Twenty-twenty, twenty-twenty, twenty-one, twenty-one today!
Living history, making history, our tomorrow starts today! (x2)
- G.** Back in history, living history, back in history today. Here in...
- F. Voice 1:** Twenty-twenty, twenty-twenty-one (*repeat*) Twenty-twenty, twenty-twenty one today! (x3)
Voice 2: Twenty-twenty, twenty-twenty, twenty-one, twenty-one today! (x3)
M.C.: Twenty-twenty, twenty-twenty, twenty-one, twenty-one today!
Living history, making history, our tomorrow starts today! (x2)
- G.** Back in history, living history, back in history today. We are...
- H.** Making history, living history, back in history today. Here today! Here today!
- I.** Walsgrave, Earlsdon, Whoberley, Coundon, Bell Green, Binley, Caludon, Deedmore, Hillfields, Holbrook, Styvechale, Radford, Foleshill, Canley, Willenhall, Cheylesmore, Tile Hill, Spon End, Keresley, Longford, Wyken, Wood End, Chapelfields – Whitley Allesley, Manor Farm, Henley Green, Stoke.

STOP THE CLOCK!

2. Remember not to forget

Refrain 1: *We are all shaped by history, past events make you and me,
Who we are, and what we'll be one day.
All of the things we've come to know, guide the way we live and show,
Why we must remember not to forget.*

Refrain 2: *Learn from mistakes that others made, from the price already paid,
And together we make a new history.
Proud of the city that we've become, joined together, we stand as one;
Turn the fire that burned to flames of hope.*

Litanies

1 (Vigilant) Coventry's quiet, Coventry's tranquil, Coventry's sleeping, Coventry's peaceful, Coventry's dreaming, Coventry's dreaming.

2 (Anticipation) Stillness is broken, something is stirring, sense of foreboding, seems to be whirring, sounds like it's humming, sounds like it's humming.

Refrain 1

3 (Anticipation) *Coventry's fearful (x6)* Luftwaffe coming, run to the shelter, Moonlight Sonata, five hundred bombers, lit up by moonbeams, lit up by moonbeams.

4 (Action) *Coventry's burning (x6)* Bomb the cathedral, fire at St. Michael's, flames shooting higher, ravaged by firestorms, sirens are blaring, sirens are blaring.

Refrain 1

5 (Action) *Coventry's blazing (x6)* Incendiary bombs, Blitzkrieg upon us, flatten the city, bent on destruction, madness at midnight, madness at midnight.

6 (Aftermath) *Coventry's smouldering (x6)* Houses are blasted, factories flattened, roads are demolished, phone network crippled, buildings bombarded, buildings bombarded.

Refrain 2

7 (Aftermath) *Coventry's weeping (x6)* Bombing raid over, crawl out in silence, people dumbfounded, city in ruins, eerily quiet, eerily quiet.

8 (Impact) *Coventry's mourning (x6)* Landscape disfigured, families shattered, children are weeping, mass devastation, ashes and embers, ashes and embers.

Refrain 2

9 (Impact) *Coventry's grieving (x6)* Families fractured, skyline fragmented, townscape in tatters, numbed by the trauma, loved ones are missing, loved ones are missing.

10 (Reconciliation) *Coventry's healing (x6)* Greying end of night, day not yet begun, choirs of wailing shells, glimmers of goodbyes, evil shed away, evil shed away.

**Forgive the greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
Forgive our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee.**

3. Jet Man

Refrain

*Trouble-maker, pioneer, navigator, engineer,
Aviator, king of speed, top professor,
Squadron Lea---der, Squadron Lea---der!*

Verse 1

Aged fifteen, Frank was keen, following his childhood dream
Aged fifteen, Frank was keen, signed up with the flying team
Five foot tall, really, really small, Air Force would not let him in
Five foot tall, really, really small - said he was too short and thin!

The little man with the big ideas (x4)

Refrain

Verse 2

Aged sixteen, five foot three, had to fake his name and lie
Aged sixteen, five foot three, earned his wings and learned to fly
Passed the test, better than the rest, liked to put on quite a show
Passed the test, better than the rest, always flying far too low.

The little man with the big ideas (x4)

Refrain

Verse 3

Flying Frank, highest rank, Ready, on your marks, get set!
Flying Frank, highest rank, he designed the turbo jet!
Moved away, U-S-A, master of the laws of flight
Moved away, U-S-A, then the king made him a knight

The little man with the big ideas (x4)

Final refrain

*Trouble-maker, pioneer, navigator, engineer,
Aviator, king of speed, top professor,
Sir Frank Whi---ttle, Sir Frank Whi---ttle!*

The little man with the big ideas (*repeat and fade*)

4. We're Coventry Cars

Swallow, MG, British Leyland, Wolseley,

Daimler, Alvis, Armstrong Siddeley, Sunbeam,

Hillman, Morris, Jaguar, Rover, Humber,

Peugeot, Triumph, Lanchester, Chrysler, Austin,

Horseless carriage, home of the London cab.

We're Coventry cars! Coventry cars!

(Repeat 3 times)

5. Cycling Around

- A. Boneshaker, velocipede. (x4)
Penny Farthing, BMX. (x3)
Chopper, chopper. (x4)
Raleigh Roadster, Raleigh.

- B. *Group A:* Boneshaker, velocipede. (x4)
Group B: Penny Farthing, BMX. (x4)
Group C: Chopper, chopper. (x4)
Group D: Roadster, Raleigh, Raleigh. (x4)
Group E: Tandem, electric. (x4)

- C. **Voice 1:** I'm riding on my bicycle. (x3)
Voice 2: We're riding on our tricycle. (x3)

Voices 1 & 2: Ding ding! (x3)
Voice 3: Riding along. (x4)
Voice 4: Keep on riding. (x3)

- C. **Voices 1 – 4 :** Ding ding! (x2)
Voice 5: Freewheeling, (x3) *Freewhee...*
Voice 6: Godiva, (x3) *Godi...*

Voices 1, 3 & 5: Puff puff!
Voices 2, 4 & 6: Pant pant!
Voice 7: I can play piano, play the Maple Leaf Rag. (x2)
Voice 8: Dancing to Rag Time. (x2)

- D. **(Unison):** Dancing to Rag Time, dancing to Rag Time. Dance! ALL CHANGE!

- C. **Voice 3:** I'm riding on my bicycle. (x3)
Voice 4: We're riding on our tricycle. (x3)

Voice 1: Riding along. (x4)
Voice 2: Keep on riding. (x3)
Voices 3 & 4: Ding ding! (x3)

- C. **Voices 1- 4:** Ding ding! (x3)
Voice 7: Freewheeling, (x3) *Freewhee...*
Voice 8: Godiva, (x3) Godi...

- C. **Voices 1, 3 & 7:** Puff puff!
Voices 2, 4 & 8: Pant pant!
Voice 5: I can play piano, play the Maple Leaf Rag. (x2)
Voice 6: Dancing to Rag Time, dancing to Rag Time. (x2)

- D. **Unison:** Dancing to Rag Time, dancing to Rag Time. Dance! ALL CHANGE!

- E. **Voice 1:** Riding on my bicycle. (x2)
Voice 2: We're riding on our tricycle. (x2)
Voice 3: ...long, Riding along. (x2)
Voice 4: Keep on riding, keep on riding. (x2)
Voice 5: Wheeling, freewheeling, free- (x2)
Voice 6: ...diva, Godiva, Go- (x2)
Voice 7: I can play piano, play the Maple Leaf Rag. (x2)
Voice 8: Dancing to Rag Time, dancing to Rag Time. (x2)

[SING SECTION E THROUGH THREE TIMES IN TOTAL]

- G. **Group A:** Boneshaker, velocipede. (x2)
Group B: Penny Farthing, BMX. (x3)
Group C: Chopper, chopper. (x8)
Group D: Roadster, Raleigh, Raleigh. (x5)
Group E: Tandem, electric. (x6)

6. Clocks ticking

A. *Caterpillar - stegosaurus - alligator - pomegranate - barracuda - ballerina - Cinderella - plum! (repeat)*

B. *Caterpillar - *stegosaurus - *alligator - *pomegranate - barracuda - ballerina - Cinderella - plum!*

Clock Soundscape: Tick tick tock, ticka ticka tock, tick tock. (repeat)

C. **Verse 1:** *There's a feeling in the air; there's a feeling in the air tonight. (repeat)*

Can you hear the clocks striking, time marching by?

Knick knack, click track, natterjack, tic tac, quick snack, Black Jack, bric-a-brac, ric-rac.

Can you hear the clocks striking, time marching by?

Chin chin, chin wag, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, ding dong, sing song, billabong, ping pong.

Can you hear the clocks striking, time marching by?

Half moon, full moon, crescent moon, blue moon, Hong Kong, bing bong, sing-a-long, King Kong.

STOP THE CLOCK!

Verse 2: *There is music in the air; there is music in the air tonight. (repeat)*

Can you hear the clocks ticking, time passing by?

Top class, Top Ten, Top o' the Pops, top spin, Top Shop, top hat, topical, top notch.

Can you hear the clocks ticking, time passing by?

Meerkat, pussy cat, alley cat, copy cat, fat cat, top cat, Cheshire cat, cool cat.

Can you hear the clocks ticking, time passing by?

Hotchpotch, hopscotch, hop-a-long, hotspot, goldfish, gerbil, guinea pig, goat!

STOP THE CLOCK!

D. *Swanswell, Cook Street, Bishopsgate, Broadgate, Guildhall, Black Prince, Caludon Castle, Peace Trail, Peace Pole, Whittle Arch, Wasps, Spon Gate, Ricoh, Coventry Cathedral, Jimmy Hill, Thomas White, Selector, Ska, Sky Blues, Specials, poet Philip Larkin, Walk the walk, Talk the talk, priory, market, 2-Tone, Cross of Nails, ring road, ruins.*

STOP THE CLOCK!

Verse 3: There is magic in the air; there is magic in the air tonight. *(repeat)*
Can you hear the clocks chiming, time flying by?

Home time, playtime, dinner time, bed time, on time, night time, out of time, lost time.

Can you hear the clocks chiming, time flying by?

Boo hoo, poo poo, toodle-oo, yoo hoo, tea cup, egg cup, F.A. cup, World cup.

Can you hear the clocks chiming, time flying by?

In tune, theme tune, Looney Tunes, show tune, poppycock, bottoms up, knickerbocker glory.

STOP THE CLOCK!

D. *Swanswell, Cook Street, Bishopsgate, Broadgate, Guildhall, Black Prince, Caludon Castle, Peace Trail, Peace Pole, Whittle Arch, Wasps, Spon Gate, Ricoh, Coventry Cathedral, Jimmy Hill, Thomas White, Selecter, Ska, Sky Blues, Specials, poet Philip Larkin, Walk the walk, Talk the talk, priory, market, 2-Tone, Cross of Nails, ring road, ruins.*

STOP THE CLOCK!

STOP THE CLOCK!

Types of clocks A - Z *(Voiceover)*

Astronomical clock - Big Ben - Cuckoo clock - Digital clock - Elephant clock - Fireside clock – Grandfather clock - Hourglass clock - Ivory clock - Jupiter clock - Kit-Kat clock - Lunar clock – Maltese clock - Novelty clock - Observatory clock - Pendulum clock - Quartz clock – Red Riding Hood Clock - Speaking clock - Turtle clock - Utopia clock - Venus clock - Wall clock – Exotic clock - Yacht clock - Zodiac clock.

7. Starley's inventions

Verse 1

James Starley, James Starley, James Starley, what a great inventor!
*'Ambition, ambition, to be the best at what I do.
My future, my future, it's so exciting and I'm feeling fit to explode!
Making 'toys' for Tomorrow's World.'*

Verse 2

James Starley, James Starley, James Starley, what a great inventor!
'Frustration, frustration, I can't disguise the way I feel.'
"Be patient, be patient, you will succeed - you have the aptitude to go far.
Starley, you're a star!"

Verse 3

James Starley, James Starley, James Starley, what a great inventor!
*'Inventions, inventions, I have so many new ideas.
Perfection, perfection, my tricycle is now the hottest ticket in town.'*
Word is spreading for miles around.

Verse 4

James Starley, James Starley, James Starley, what a great inventor!
'Creations, creations, so who will fund my new machines?'
"Investment, investment, we have the means to help you find a way to achieve"
Starley you're a star!

Verse 5

James Starley, James Starley, James Starley, what a great inventor!
*"Precision, precision, will lead us to bespoke ideas!
Eureka! Eureka! Such engineering is a revolution on wheels!"*
*"Starley you're a star!
Starley you're a star!"*

8. City walls

Verse 1

Imagine (mm), what secrets these city walls keep,
Imagine (mm), what secrets these city walls keep,
Imagine (mm), imagine (mm),
Promises made and promises broken,
Words that were said and words left unspoken,
Dreams long forgotten when dreamers are woken,
Their dream goes on, their dream goes on.

Verse 2

Imagine (mm), what sorrows these city walls hide,
Imagine (mm), what sorrows these city walls hide,
Imagine (mm), imagine (mm),
Families torn and left silently mourning,
Loved ones they lost and with so little warning,
Bombers that came in the hours before morning.
As time goes by, as time goes by.

Verse 3 *[denotes echo]*

Imagine (mm), *[imagine]*, what rumours these city walls heard,
Imagine (mm), *[imagine]*, what rumours these city walls heard,
Imagine (mm), *[imagine]*, imagine (mm), *[imagine]*,
Arguments won and apologies given,
Friends reconciled or left unforgiven,
Sweethearts delight in a love that's forbidden.
Their love goes on, their love goes on.

Verse 4 *[denotes echo]*

Imagine (mm), *[imagine]*, what labours these city walls saw,
Imagine (mm), *[imagine]*, what labours these city walls saw,
Imagine (mm), *[imagine]*, imagine (mm), *[imagine]*
Clockmakers toiling through turbulent times,
Starley perfected his cycle designs,
Shiny new cars rolled off factory lines.
As life goes by, as life goes by.

9. Godiva muses

Verse 1

I cannot seem to get through to him,
He will not listen to anything,
Long have I pondered my plight, have I suffered my fate,
And all in vain? To feel such pain!

There must be ways I can change his decision.
Make him see sense and rethink his position.

Verse 2

Beg and implore but he laughs at me,
Sends me away and ignores my plea,
Blessed have I been as his wife, but I can't live my life.
It's all in vain, I feel such pain!

There must be ways I can change his decision.
Make him see sense and rethink his position.

Verse 3

Greed drives my husband to tyranny,
Hated by all for his villainy,
I'll use my feminine guile, hide behind a sweet smile.
No more in vain, I'll ease that pain.

I've found a way: I can change his decision,
Challenging him to rethink his position.

10. The Lady Godiva

Refrain

Godiva, Godiva, The Lady Godiva is here today.
Godiva, Godiva, the bare horseback rider is here to stay.
Godiva, Godiva, yes, her sole admirer is in the crowd!
Godiva, Godiva, it's Tom who is peeping - that's not allowed!

Verse 1

Vexed by his wife's request, he puts her to the test.
Ending all poverty, may cost her dignity.

Refrain

Godiva, Godiva, The Lady Godiva is here today.
Godiva, Godiva, the bare horseback rider is here to stay.
Godiva, Godiva, yes, her sole admirer is in the crowd!
Godiva, Godiva, it's Tom who is peeping - that's not allowed!

Verse 2

Hair loose and tumbling down, she sets off through the town.
Bound by their loyalty, no-one turns out to see.

Refrain

Godiva, Godiva, The Lady Godiva is here today.
Godiva, Godiva, the bare horseback rider is here to stay.
Godiva, Godiva, yes, her sole admirer is in the crowd!
Godiva, Godiva, it's Tom who is peeping - that's not allowed!

Verse 3

Stunned by Godiva's act, Leo repeals the tax!
Go Diva!

