

Following composition workshops led by Composer Jonathan Dove in pilot projects, Composer Matthew King led further workshops with schools in Hackney and Nürnberg to devise ideas for setting the texts to music. He then wove the resulting songs and musical themes into a dramatic cantata in English, German and Czech.

The collaboration – allowing all children to contribute and have ownership of a final product worked really well... The session was effective in teaching about the Holocaust because the transformation of literature to suitable musical form was thought-provoking for all.

Teacher, Jubilee Primary School, London



Often we would begin by thinking about the accompaniment, trying to create a suitable mood. Once we had found out whether it was fast or slow, high or low, rhythmically driven or spacious,

I would try to play something on the piano that matched what we talked about... then we could begin to try out different melodic phrases. Sometimes we would split up into very small groups and try to find three or five different ways of singing it.

Jonathan Dove



Workshops were also conducted in Nürnberg in order to set the German texts in an authentic manner... Fascinatingly, melodies that came from German workshops seemed strikingly different from English ones – more classical, more Schubertian even.

Matthew King

