AstroCappella: *The Sun Song*  
Music and Lyrics by Karen Smale

Our star, the Sun is a big ball of gas  
And it's 99 percent of our solar system's mass  
It's an average star in our Milky Way  
Warming the Earth every day

What powers our Sun and makes it so bright?  
Come on and tell me, what makes all that light?  
Hans Bethe long ago reached the conclusion  
It changes Hydrogen to Helium by nuclear fusion

When fusion takes place light is created  
And it makes its way out (although rather belated)  
Through the photosphere that's the part that we see  
The light comes out and shines on you and me

About a million Earths could fit in the Sun  
But if you were there you wouldn't have much fun  
It's six thousand degrees at the photosphere  
And much hotter inside the solar atmosphere

There are a few places where it's not so hot  
Like at the center of a big sunspot  
But heat is relative it's still pretty warm  
Sitting on a sunspot would do you great harm

Galileo discovered sunspots  
What are those things, those funny dots?  
They're cooler parts, scientists feel  
Caused by a stronger magnetic field

Those spots move around the face of the Sun  
Proving to all... solar rotation!  
A strange kind of movement, to do a full roll  
25 days in the middle, 36 at the poles

What about flares? I've heard of them here  
They're like giant explosions in the chromosphere  
The magnetic fields above those sunspots  
Reconnecting again after being in knots

Above the chromosphere the corona is placed  
It's millions of degrees and reaches way into space  
It's very thin, but read my lips  
That's the part that you see in a solar eclipse

That's the end of our song about Mr. Sun  
We hope that you find that learning is fun  
But never look at the Sun, you could go blind  
Just keep on enjoying that warm sunshine!

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www.astrocappella.com
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