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# many voices, one goal

transforming lives through singing

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# our vision

Since its launch in 2009, Leeds Cathedral Choir School has integrated choral music into the life of inner-city Holy Rosary and St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Chapeltown. Our vision of a 21st Century choir school sees every child taught to sing as a part of the core curriculum, with school choirs contributing to the choral activities of the neighbouring Holy Rosary Church and Leeds Cathedral.



## Innovation

The country's renowned choral heritage now has a home within one of the most disadvantaged areas of West Yorkshire (top 3% of deprivation nationally, IMD 2015), with income, employment, health and crime indicators particularly challenging. For many of the pupils – with 92% from immigrant and BME families – English is an additional language. The power of song embraces the 30+ languages spoken by pupils, with the children performing in English, Latin, Congolese, French, Greek, Igbo, Mandarin, Polish, Spanish and Zulu. This project is celebrated for its ability to break down the cultural barriers surrounding choral singing; uniting and positively impacting on the local community.

## Celebrating 10 years

Ten years into the project, under the leadership of Choral Director Sally Egan, the Choir School is thriving. Weekly singing sessions are provided throughout the school, from nursery to year six, leading to participation in the school's outstanding choral groups, which include the Senior Choir, Training Choir and Gospel Choir; all of whom perform regularly in and out of school. Children gain musical skills far beyond those required in ordinary school choirs; many continue to pursue music at secondary school and through extra-curricular opportunities.

## The first state primary Cathedral Choir School

The essential progression routes from the Choir School to Leeds Cathedral Choirs continue to develop and a charity-subsidised minibus service now transports pupils to the Cathedral Children's Choir. The growth of this service will enable our children to participate in the musical life of the Cathedral for many years to come, progressing through the Cathedral's renowned pyramid of choirs.

## Community

With the recent addition of Staff and Parent Choirs, the whole school community reap the many benefits of group singing. Parents, staff and students now perform alongside one another; creating a unified purpose that is experienced by all.

## Beyond music

The benefits of the weekly singing sessions are clear, with children growing in confidence and self-esteem. The impact of this reaches far beyond the musical, with proven academic benefits; children are interacting more confidently in classroom discussions and feel empowered to take on new activities and join new groups. Choir School children are now out-performing their peers nationally in some subjects. Despite the considerable language and social barriers faced by many pupils, the school is in the top 10% nationally for progress made by pupils, and the impact on progress of disadvantaged pupils is substantial (2018 SAT results / Ofsted Report).

*'The school is moving towards 'choir school status' under the inspirational work of the choral director.'* Ofsted Report February 2018

## Thank you to our supporters

External funding for the Choir School Project has enabled us to positively impact on the lives of over 2500 children. The project costs £30,000 to run annually, supported by a yearly grant of £12,000 from Leeds College of Music.

We are dependent on financial support from many private individuals and charitable trusts, in particular the Holbeck Trust. Thank you to the many supporters who help us to provide these life-changing opportunities.





## Meet Moses

The Cathedral Choir School feeds into the six Boys' and Girls' Cathedral Choirs, who rehearse weekly and regularly perform at Leeds Cathedral, in BBC broadcasts, national competitions and other prestigious venues. Choir School students have the opportunity to study the keyboard through the Organists' Training Programme and it was through this route that Moses became involved with the music at Leeds Cathedral.

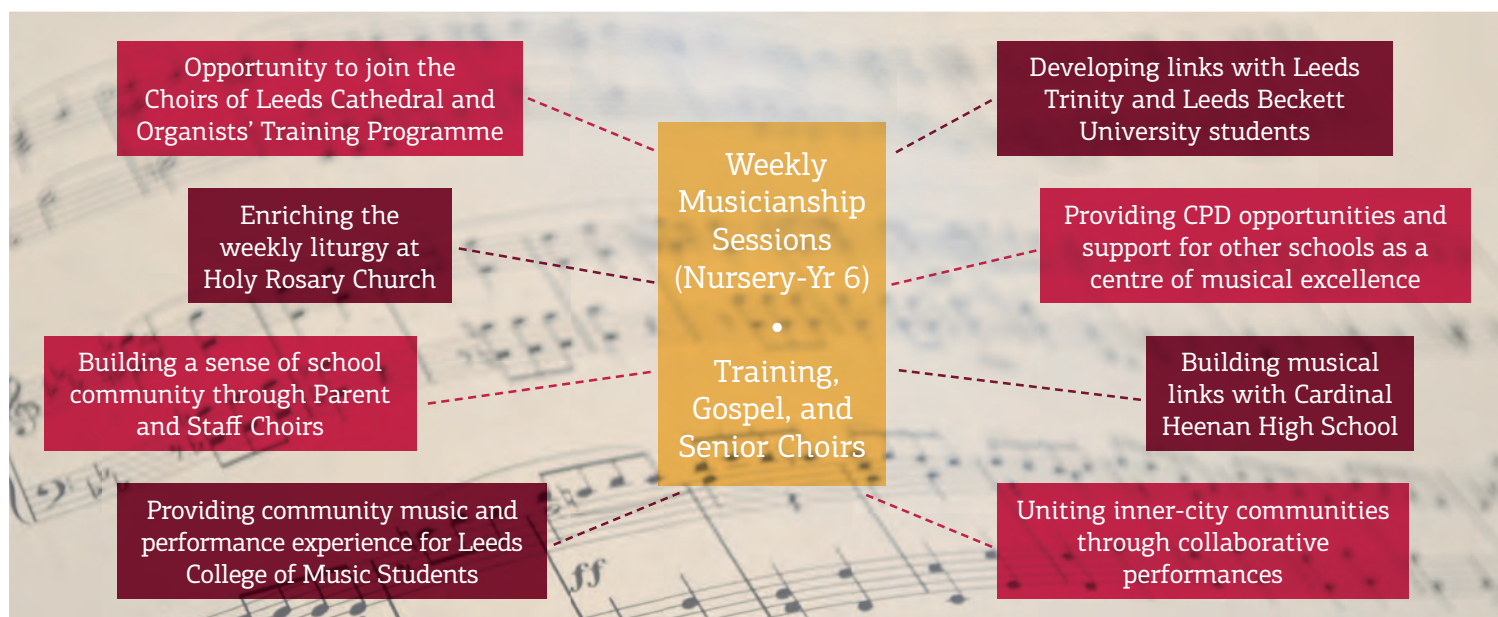
*"Moses was always a very musical child, whose aural ability was remarkable for his age. Moses could pick up complex harmonic progressions by ear, and it was during his final year at the Choir School that he began to accompany choir and class rehearsals on the piano. A grant was secured and Moses was offered organ lessons at Leeds Cathedral as well as being invited to sing with the Senior Boys' Choir at just 10 years old."*

Sally Egan, Choir School Choral Director.

## Meet Hannah

*"As a student at the Leeds College of Music, Hannah visited the school as part of our Visiting Artists Programme last year. She was so inspired by the experience that she decided to join the team at Holy Rosary and St Anne's in June 2018 as a Learning Support Assistant. Following an inspirational workshop day with Tyndale Thomas, she has established a Gospel Choir who have already begun to perform outside of school."*

Liz McDonagh-Smith, Headteacher



## Visiting Artists

Every year we welcome musicians from around the world into school, giving the children the opportunity to rehearse, sing and listen to music from all corners of the globe. Meeting teenagers, university students and professional musicians who keep singing at the centre of their lives, is always an inspiring experience for our children and staff. In July 2018, thanks to a generous ex-student, we welcomed Tyndale Thomas MBE to lead a Gospel Workshop, resulting in the launch of our very own School Gospel Choir. Other visiting artists include the University of Texas at El Paso Chamber Singers, the Leeds College of Music Contemporary Pop Choir and the Eastern Mennonite High School Choir, Virginia.

*"When I was your age, I dreamt of being a musician. Now I'm walking in my dream, and you can all do the same."*  
Tyndale Thomas

### Performance highlights

- Graduation Ceremony, Leeds Children's University, 2016
- Global Learning Conference, Leeds Trinity University, 2015
- BBC Radio 4 Daily Service Broadcast, 2015
- Installation of Leeds Trinity University Chancellor, 2013
- BBC One Midnight Mass Broadcast, 2012
- Papal Visit, St Mary's University College, London, 2010

## Your support

Our long term aim is to sustain the Cathedral Choir School into the foreseeable future, maintaining and developing musical, academic and community partnerships old and new; an achievable goal with the generous support of funders. All donations towards the Choir School make a real and measurable difference, to secure our future please support us using the Gift Aid and donation form below.

### We are grateful to the following patrons

- Mr Gordon & Mrs Francesca Horsfield, Holbeck Trust
- Gerry Godley, Principal and Managing Director, Leeds College of Music
- Dr Keith Howard, Emerald Foundation
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- Rhodes Trust
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- Rt Hon Fabian Hamilton MP
- Richard Mantle, General Director Opera North
- Rt Reverend Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds
- Mgr Philip Moger, Dean of Leeds Cathedral
- Benjamin Saunders, Director of Music, Diocese of Leeds
- Elizabeth McDonagh-Smith, Headteacher, Holy Rosary and St Anne's Primary School
- Sally Egan, Choral Director, Leeds Cathedral Choir School
- Robin Smith, Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire



### For more information please visit:

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0113 336 8433 / [secretary@st-annes.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@st-annes.leeds.sch.uk)  
Leeds Cathedral Choir School, Holy Rosary and  
St Anne's Primary School, Leopold Street,  
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