



**LEEDS  
ARTS RESEARCH  
CENTRE**

**KEF**

**DR TENLEY MARTIN**

**COHESIVE HARMONIES**

# KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK DATA COLLECTION

February 2023

The University's Research & Enterprise Service has requested information on knowledge exchange and engagement with the public and communities. Please complete the form below and return it to Professor Simon Morris ([S.DC.Morris@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:S.DC.Morris@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)) and Dr Tina Conkar ([t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)) by **21**

**February 2023.**

Many thanks for your support with information gathering for this submission.

<b>Name:</b>	Dr Tenley Martin
<b>Job Title:</b>	Senior Lecturer in Music
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<b>School:</b>	Leeds School of Arts

Please use the template below to detail information on all projects you have undertaken since 1 January 2019 that involved public and community engagement. Please use one form per project.

<b>Project Title:</b>	Cohesive Harmonies
<b>Project Date(s):</b>	Nov 2021-Jun 2022
<b>URL Link to Project:</b>	<a href="https://youtu.be/Csyl3JiyrP0">https://youtu.be/Csyl3JiyrP0</a>
<b>Brief Description of Project</b> (250-1000 words max.)	
In the field below please give a brief outline of the project and what it entailed.	
<p>'Cohesive Harmonies' explores music interventions and social cohesion focusing on the asylum seeker and refugee (AS-R) population of Leeds. This project is a collaboration between myself, Emma from Musicians Without Borders, and Harmony Choir Leeds – a community groups of AS-R and Leeds community singers. The project included a MWB-style leadership workshop for the choir and LSA students; a songwriting workshop with the choir; and a performance at All Hallows Leeds. My work with the choir began in November 2021 and tuition in basic percussion in preparation for a performance in January 2022. In this performance, I supported the choir on percussion at an event at Howard Assembly rooms (Leeds) which was part of a nationwide initiative by Sound UK called 'A song for Us'. The performance was livestreamed here: <a href="https://asongforus.org/">https://asongforus.org/</a> on 2 February 2022. The aim for the next phase of the project was to encourage interactions between university students, local Leeds musicians, and the AS-R members, as well as encouraging participants to take the skills learned and lead their own arts outreach activities. In Spring 2022, project activities with Harmony Choir included running a songwriting workshop, a percussion skills workshop, and then a day-course facilitated by Emma as an introduction to music outreach techniques. The songwriting workshop was run by myself and Emma from MWB. The choir wrote a song in a 45-minute session. The percussion workshop was run by myself and a L6 LSA music student. During this we learned basic percussion skills on instruments that were purchased with my project money and given to the choir, which increased the sustainability of the activities. The day-course was intended to bring both AS-R and British choir members together with LSA students to learn techniques for running their own music outreach interventions. This was led by Emma, who is an experienced MWB trainer. This pilot phase of the project culminated with a public concert by Harmony Choir in Leeds, which included a pre-concert talk about the project and workshop for the audience. This was an incredibly impactful project which empowered the AS-Rs in the choir to share their music and stories with a British audience, as well as showcase the song and percussion arrangement they had co-written. During the concert, I did a pre-concert talk about the</p>	

project, then members of the choir taught the audience songs to join in with the choir on. Most impactful was one of the asylum seekers – a lady from Kenya – teaching the audience a song and dance from Swahili. Previously this member hadn't been willing to step out and speak in front of audiences or even the choir during rehearsals. The project was very successful, with exceptional reviews from the choir. The follow-on activities from this project have been funded by 2022 HEIF money and extends the aims of the pilot project to reach more participants for longer periods of time, thus providing greater impact and sustainability.

'Cohesive Harmonies' works to suggest adaptable, community-driven measures towards music's social cohesion capabilities amongst AS-Rs and host locales, particularly in multi-cultural West Yorkshire.

<p><b>Organisations Engaged with:</b> Please list the names of any organisations engaged with, such as Schools or Community Groups.</p>	<p>Harmony Choir (Leeds) Musicians without Borders LBU LSA Music Students</p>	<p><b>Total participants:</b> Please give an approximate figure for the number of people who engaged with your project.</p>	<p>20-40 participants (depending on project activity) Around 50 audience members at the final performance</p>
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<p><b>Knowledge Exchange Outcomes:</b> If relevant, in brief, please describe any knowledge exchange outcomes such as new approaches to working with a community.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) new musical approaches for facilitating cohesion between AS-Rs and host communities;</li> <li>2) locally-specific music workshop strategies for building inter-community trust;</li> <li>3) knowledge exchange regarding how co-produced musical research can empower AS-R/host participants and establish ways for interventions to improve societal well-being</li> </ol>
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**Quotes**  
In the field below please include any relevant quotes that you would like to share which evidence the knowledge exchange and engagement your project received.

**Images**  
In the field below please include any relevant images you would like to share.

Yorkshire Evening Post article about the project:

16 May 2022



**FINE VOICE:** Leeds Harmony Choir is set to give a live concert this month.

## Choir tunes up to build communities

LEEDS HARMONY Choir is set to give a live concert, as part of a community project led by Dr Tenley Martin from Leeds Beckett University, exploring the role of music in strengthening relationships. 'Cohesive Harmonies'

brings together the asylum seekers and refugee groups for songwriting and community-building workshops ahead of the live concert on May 22. The project explores how music can promote understanding

and trust to bridge divisions within communities. The performance at All Hallows' Church will be given by the choir, whose members are British citizens and Leeds-based asylum seekers and refugees.



Being taught a song in Swahili



Harmony Choir