



# Group Hero award 2022

Award: **Group Hero**

---

**Making Music member group: Bradford Festival Choral Society**

**How many members in the group? 120**

**Name of nominee(s): Alice Phelps, Fran Wyburn, Thomas Leech, Christopher Pulleyn, Pariss Joseph, James Hamilton**

## **Please tell us about your group**

This nomination is for a group of 6 talented artists and musicians in Bradford who worked together in 2021 to pioneer an exciting digital collaboration between two very different choirs.

'One is a choir with its roots in Victorian Bradford, and the other was founded in the city five years ago for refugees and asylum seekers.' (*Two City Choirs Coming Together in Harmony* Telegraph and Argus 14/10/21)

The innovative work of **Alice Phelps, Fran Wyburn, Thomas Leech, Christopher Pulleyn, Pariss Joseph, James Hamilton** brought together singers from Bradford Friendship Choir (BFC) and Bradford Festival Choral Society (BFCS).

## **Statement**

The group's successful collaboration can be seen here:

<https://youtu.be/jllijQTPrdA> and <https://youtu.be/Mjgyy4JoEX0>

This nomination is for a group of six talented artists and musicians in Bradford who worked together in 2021 to pioneer an exciting digital collaboration between two very different choirs. The songs were chosen by The Friendship Choir. *Jikelele* is a South African celebration song and means 'everywhere' or 'universal'. *Here is My Home* is an American folksong traditionally sung at Thanksgiving. The music was adapted to blend both natural voice method with four-part harmony. Details were discussed, songs were launched and then recording began!



With guide tracks, all singers were supported to submit audio and video recordings. The group's 'can do' attitude meant that challenges were mitigated to ensure equal access e.g. some recordings took place in homes or parks if the equipment was not available. By dedicating time and expertise, the team was able to engage singers and audiences across our city and beyond. It culminated in a joyous premiere performance at our Autumn 2021 concert where two very different choirs were united under one roof.

We believe that this group's work deserves to be recognised for engaging diverse audiences and singers at a time when many still felt isolated.



'The perfect way to bring something positive and uplifting in my life' (BFC member)

'I can't think of anything that could have been better' (BFCS member)