

Good evening everyone. My name is Seki Lynch, I'm an author, poet and playwright and I'm very jealous not to be sat where you are tonight.

Since 1894, the Music House has been a home for students of music singing and drama, producing excellence and providing a space in Leeds where creativity can thrive.

I've had the absolute pleasure of working with Heritage Specialists Joe Williams and Matthew Bellwood, composer Christella Litras and the Music House Gospel Choir with support from choir director Leroy Johnson to bring to life some of the stories and spirit of the Music House.

For years, Leeds has been a well. Music has flowed through its streets. Countless people have learnt to play and sing in it's colleges and under tuition of individuals and communities. From the long-gone bandstand on Woodhouse Moor to it's music festivals and venues, Leeds has hosted and produced so many phenomenal talents. Thousands of tributaries from across the globe have collected here forming a rich and vibrant ocean of sound.

It's in the currents of music that we remember our connection to one another. Tonight opens with a song that I wrote for the musicians of Leeds – buskers and big stage artists alike. It's dedicated to those who have ever poured their music into our city. For reminding us of how song can unite us and thanking them for sharing it with us.

I hope you have a fantastic evening. I'll be singing my heart out with you. With no further ado, please raise the roof in welcoming the Music House Gospel Choir.

With the breath that I breathe
I give my song
x 2

My self is an illusion
I'm one with everyone
x 2

My song is a river
In it's water's I become

I become free
I become new
I become me
I become you

(I become)

V2

In the gift that I give
I share my soul
x 2

There's no more confusion
I am one with everyone
x 2

My song is a river
In it's water's I become

(I become)

I become free
I become new
I become me
I become you

Bridge

Feeling the wonders in life
Feeling the love in my life

Finding my way back
To myself and knowing
That I
Was here the whole time
Here the whole time

Outro

(I become)

Breath that I breathe
Wonders I see