

George Haddock was born in Killingbeck in 1823
Same year 'Nessy', the mummy
Was brought here to Leeds
Ten years years before in law the enslaved got freed
Haddock began his life
And would eventually
Found the Yorkshire College of Music
On Cookridge Street
With Edgar and George Percy
At the age of 73
He built a lasting venture
With his family tree
Life and times of the Music House,
Listen closely

Same year as Haddock
Another notable character
His name was Henry Marsden
Born to John and Maria
1832, out break of cholera
In '48 Marsden leaves for America
Oh my, oh my
How life can change
From poverty in Holbeck
He built fortune and fame
Made money with inventions
And returned from the States
As Mayor of Leeds he was adored
'Cos he gave back to the poor

Everything connected
It all interweaves
Stories playing out
in the city of Leeds
Though the people, the places, the names have changed
The spirit of the Music House still remains

Mary Gawthorpe
A "merry militant saint"
Beaten many times
For women's rights in her day
1908 gave a speech
100,000 or more
When the Suffragette's rallied
Up on Woodhouse Moor
Jogendra Nath Sen
Arrived in 1910
From India, joined the Army
Never seen again
But he left ripples
In Mill Hill Chapel choir he sang
With his "loving sister, Cis."

Perhaps his dearest friend

Here's another personality
A Black British equestrian
Performer
Reception from the crowds couldn't be warmer
Pablo – Fanque was his name
Circus proprietor,
No one walked the tight rope higher
In his lifetime he got to live out
The gig of his dreams
He performed in front of the queen
Victoria
Next year his wife was buried in the ground
Killed during a show when the circus tumbled down
When Pablo later passed
Immense crowds gathered 'round
Laid to rest beside his wife
Today they can be found
In St. George's Fields
Countless stories untold
Beneath the earth of Wood House
97,000 souls

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There once was a band stand
on Wood house Moor
If you listen, in the silence,
You still hear the applause
It mingles with the history
In the city's veins
Sound of the Music House
Drum beat of the rain
Fiske Jubilee Singers
Perform at Leeds Town Hall
Bob Marley at Leeds Uni
Singing love for all
Pablo Fanque inspired the one and only John Lennon
When the Beatle found a poster for the Benefit of Kite
1970, The Who play at The Refectory,
A set known as the best live recording of all time
Leeds is keeping it alive, a place music can thrive
A petri-dish overflowing with musical spores
Violin of George Haddock to Lillian Styles-Allen
Scores of talent

Made through the Music House doors

1937, George Percy fades away
Run over by a lorry down in Wood House Lane
Julie Andrews was a patron
Of the Music House
Taught by Styles-Allen
To sing from her mouth
Leeds College of Music
Gets a new name
In 1965 it became
The Yorkshire College
of Music and Drama
Though it's called something different
Inside same like karma
In 1995, Hyde Park became a stage
As we all stood together on Unity day
Fast forward 20-0-1
The College moves again
To 1 St. Marks Avenue
Still here to this day
2021 renamed the Music House
And now you know everything that we're about

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