Did you know?

Past and Present
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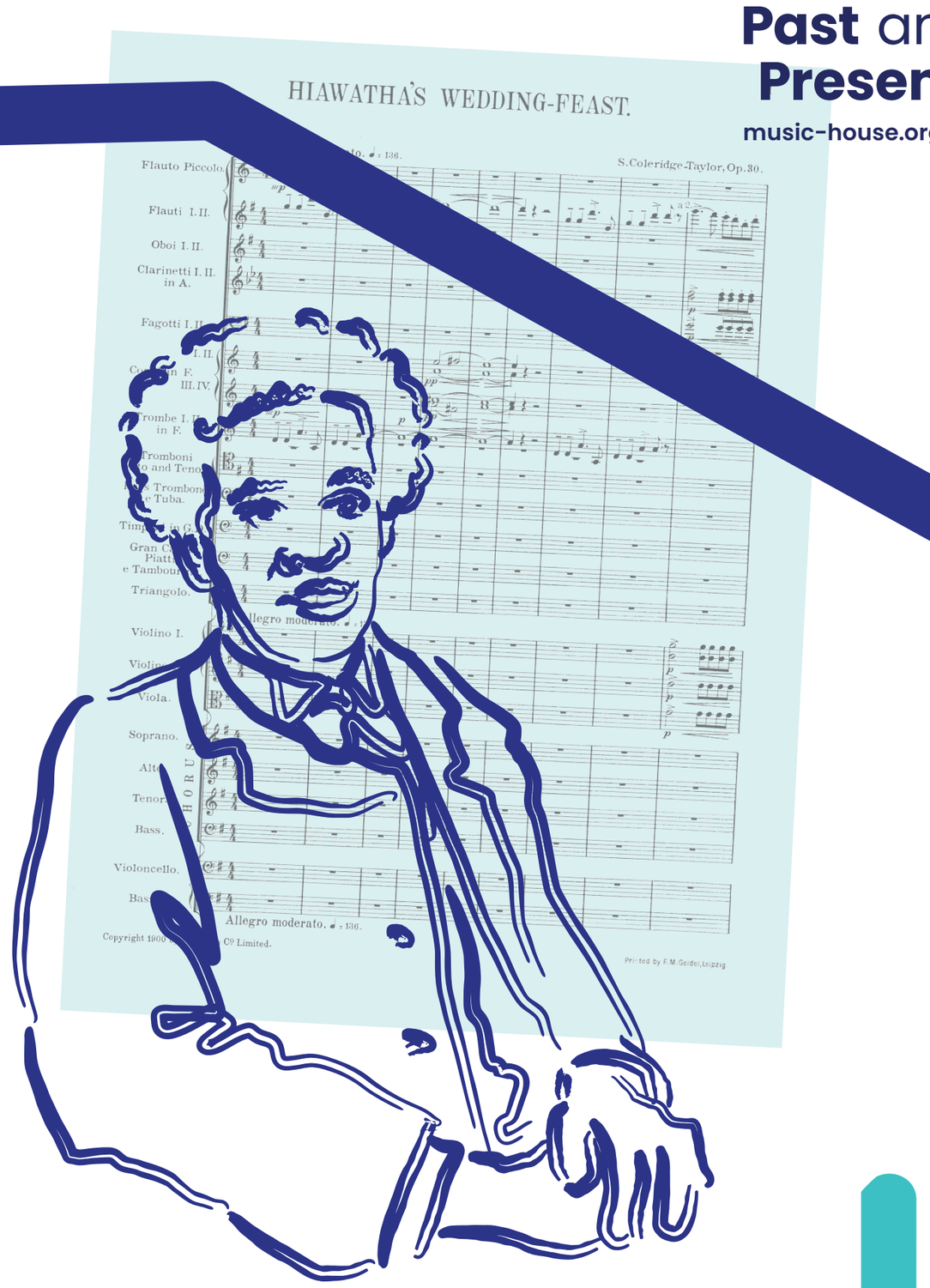
An African British classical music superstar headlined Leeds Festival in 1901.



Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was one of the foremost composers and conductors of his day. He was born in London, in 1875, to a British mother and a West African father.

As a child, Coleridge-Taylor was a prodigy on the violin, and his musical talents were noticed early. He gained a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, where he studied from the age of 15. He went on to become a hugely successful composer. His most famous composition was *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*, based on HW Longfellow's epic poem *The Song of Hiawatha*. The work became popular with choral groups and the piece was staged many hundreds of times across Britain, Europe and America.

In 1901, Coleridge-Taylor was invited to compose a new piece of music for the Leeds Triennial Musical Festival, which took place at Leeds Town Hall.

To find out more about Coleridge-Taylor's visit to Leeds, scan the QR code >

Leeds Community Foundation

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