



# Group Hero award 2022

## Award: **Group Hero**

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**Making Music member group: The Sunday Boys**

**How many members are in the group? 55**

**Name of nominee(s): Ben Baughan**

### **About Us**

The Sunday Boys is a low-voiced open access LGBTQ+ choir that rehearse in the heart of Manchester performing all over the region and beyond. We perform an eclectic range of music and give particular attention commissioning new queer work that celebrates LGBTQ+ experiences. Formed by composer and conductor Michael Betteridge in 2016 we have grown from small beginnings in a basement bar to a choir of 50 strong touring across England and as far as Iceland! We work regularly with venues such as The Lowry in Salford and The Met in Bury to produce LGBTQ+ choral performances for all.

### **Statement**

Ben became Chair of The Sunday Boys in July 2020 and the second chair of the organisation since the formation of the choir in 2016. Not only did Ben have to deal with a significant role that was previously held by my ex-partner and the complications involved, but he also had to deal with the challenges of COVID. Ben was instrumental in supporting the development of a music video in collaboration with The Lowry and singer-songwriter Finn Anderson in 2021 ensuring that all our members were safe and supported during the process of creating something so ambitious and complicated during lockdown. He also was instrumental in bringing us back to live rehearsals in September 2021 with an increased membership ensuring that everyone's needs were met in terms of COVID safety: having to juggle many different opinions alongside challenging government guidance was no mean feat and Ben worked tirelessly to get the balance right.

On a personal note, I was struck by Bells Palsy earlier this year and significantly struggled in my role as musical director. Ben was not just exceptionally kind and generous in his role as chair but was someone I could turn to constantly as a friend when I was in need.

Documentary of *Distant Dream*:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2KDMYyVK84&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2KDMYyVK84&feature=emb_title)

You can watch a video of the work here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8g71HYiYTIE>