



# EX CATHEDRA

*Jeffrey Skidmore*  
Vocal excellence, made in Birmingham

*"one of Britain's  
very best"*  
New York Times

2016-17  
season



Choir | Consort | Orchestra | Education  
Artistic Director & Conductor Jeffrey Skidmore



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Birmingham City Council**

# Dates for your diary

## May 2016

26 **In a Strange Land: City of Sounds Festival** - Adrian Boult Hall

28 **Shakespeare Odes – Southwell Minster**

## June 2016

9 **Summer Music by Candlelight** – Spitalfields Festival

21 **Summer Music by Candlelight** – Birmingham Cathedral

## July 2016

13 **New Jerusalem** – Tewkesbury Abbey (Cheltenham Music Festival)

## September 2016

30 **Twilight Fantasies** - North Wales International Music Festival

## October 2016

15 **MacMillan *Seven Angels*** - St Giles, Cripplegate (Barbican)

## November 2016

6 **Bach Mass in B Minor** - Town Hall, Birmingham

## December 2016

2 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** – St Chad’s Church, Shrewsbury

3 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** – St Peter’s Church, Wolverhampton

4 **A Brazilian Christmas** – Town Hall, Birmingham

6 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** – St James the Greater, Leicester

7 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** – Hereford Cathedral

8 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** – St John’s Church, Hagley

12 **Santa Lucia Service** – Birmingham Cathedral

13 **An Elizabethan Christmas** – St Mary’s, Warwick

15 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** – St John’s Smith Square, London

19 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** - St Pauls’ Church, Birmingham

20 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** - St Pauls’ Church, Birmingham

21 **Angels, Stars & Kings** - St Pauls’ Church, Birmingham (matinee)

21 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** - St Pauls’ Church, Birmingham

22 **Christmas Music by Candlelight** - St Pauls’ Church, Birmingham

## February 2017

5 **Purcell *Dido & Aeneas*** – Town Hall, Birmingham

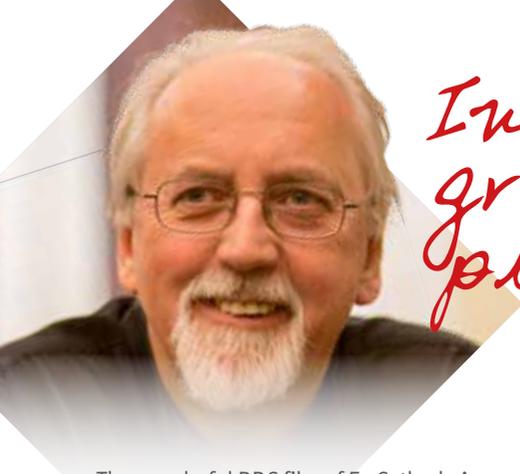
## April 2017

14 **Good Friday Bach *St John Passion*** – Symphony Hall, Birmingham

26 **In a Strange Land** – Cadogan Hall, London

## June 2017

20 **Summer Music by Candlelight** - Birmingham Cathedral



# In England's green and pleasant land

The wonderful BBC film of Ex Cathedra's Holy Trinity performance in Stratford-upon-Avon of **Shakespeare Odes** is still available to watch for 6 months: worldwide at [bbc.co.uk/shakespearelives](http://bbc.co.uk/shakespearelives) and in the UK via the BBC iPlayer. The British Council funded the visualisation, and are promoting it across their networks.

Following on from the excitement and euphoria of this amazing project our 47th season continues to celebrate Britain's cultural heritage, old and new. We are very happy to be performing again James MacMillan's stunning cantata **Seven Angels** in Cheltenham and at the Barbican, London. Included in the programme is Parry's **Jerusalem** and **Blest Pair of Sirens** and music by Gillian Weir and Herbert Howells.

Ex Cathedra's two **Candlelight** programmes celebrating the Winter and Summer Solstices both feature music by contemporary British composers Alec Roth, David Matthews, James MacMillan, John Joubert, Roderick Williams and Fyfe Hutchins as well as the much loved traditional repertoire. It is the 10th anniversary of our first concert of music by Alec Roth. It has been a prolific decade in which Ex Cathedra has been privileged to premiere masterpieces such as *Shared Ground*, *Earthrise*, *Hymn to Gaia* and *A Time to Dance*. These works form an integral part of our season.

England's earliest great opera **Dido and Aeneas** heralds Ex Cathedra's exploration over the next few years of music by Henry Purcell, this "fairest isle's" true Baroque gem. My research also continues to mine the rich repertoire of Latin

America and **Brazilian Christmas** features the music of the remarkable João de Deus de Castro Lobo (1794 -1832). This man had a great story. The distinguished musicologist Paulo Castagna writes:

*"Castro Lobo began playing and conducting music at the opera theatre in Ouro Preto with his father and brothers. They were an afro-brazilian family of musicians, a kind of afro-american "Mozart family", but suddenly he decided to change his life and became a priest in Mariana some years later, and then the cathedral's organist and chapel master. In Mariana he started to write sacred music mixed with the italian operatic style, with coloratura arias and dramatic orchestration."*

The **Matinas de Natal** is one of his finest compositions, a work which made such a vivid impression on my first visit in 2013 to the exquisite Igreja Nossa Senhora do Rosário in Ouro Preto.

No Ex Cathedra season would be complete without JS Bach. On Good Friday we perform the **St John Passion** in Symphony Hall in a reconstruction to mark 500 years of Lutheran worship. In the Autumn our Birmingham season begins with Bach's **Mass in B Minor**, the crowning achievement of a musician whom many people believe is the greatest composer of all time. In almost every way this work is a performers' toughest challenge, a true benchmark of achievement, a musical Everest. Not to be missed!

**Jeffrey Skidmore**  
Artistic Director & Conductor

# Bach

## Mass in B Minor

Ex Cathedra Choir & Baroque Orchestra

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Elizabeth Adams, Katie Trethewey, Amy Wood soprano

Harriet Hougham Slade, Martha McLorinan alto

Jeremy Budd tenor

Thomas Flint, Greg Skidmore bass

Composed throughout his lifetime and completed shortly before his death, Bach's epic setting of the Mass is a breathtaking achievement. From moments of majesty, ablaze with trumpets and drums, to movements of serenity, it's a choral masterpiece – not to be missed.

*"stylishly  
performed"*

The Guardian

Sunday 6 November, 4pm

Town Hall, Birmingham

£40 / £30 / £20 / £12.50<sup>1</sup>

0121 780 3333

<sup>1</sup> Includes per ticket commission, see p12.

This concert will end at approximately 6.30pm.

# A Brazilian Christmas

## Castro Lobo Matinas de natal

Ex Cathedra Consort & Baroque Orchestra

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Following the popular and critical acclaim of our Brazilian Adventures CD, we return to the music of this vast, enchanting country, with a programme of elegant music from Ouro Preto, including a major, seasonal work by one of Brazil's most important 18th-century composers.

Sunday 4 December, 4pm

Town Hall, Birmingham  
£40 / £30 / £20 / £12.50<sup>1</sup>  
0121 780 3333

<sup>1</sup> Includes per ticket commission, see p12.

This concert will end at approximately 6.30pm.

*"brought  
beautifully  
back to life"*

BBC Radio 3, Record Review

# Christmas Music by *Candlelight*

Ex Cathedra

**Jeffrey Skidmore** conductor  
**Alexander Mason** organ

Aimed at the heart of Christmas, these atmospheric concerts have become a popular tradition in Birmingham and London, which this year we extend to Hereford, Leicester and Wolverhampton. A seamless stream of music brings old favourites, stunning new music and hidden gems, all interspersed with readings that capture the meaning - and humour - of the season.

Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

*"exhilarating"*  
The Scotsman

If you  
enjoy this,  
why not try  
Summer Music by  
Candlelight  
too.

**Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm**

St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton <sup>1</sup>  
£30 / £20 / £10 <sup>2</sup>  
0121 780 3333

**Tuesday 6 December, 7.30pm**

St James the Greater, Leicester <sup>1</sup>  
£30 / £25 / £15  
0116 254 2111

**Wednesday 7 December, 7.30pm**

Hereford Cathedral <sup>1</sup>  
£30 / £20 / £10 <sup>2</sup>  
0121 780 3333

**Thursday 15 December, 7.30pm**

St John's Smith Square, London  
£35 / £28 / £22 / £14 <sup>3</sup>  
020 7222 1061

**Mon 19, Tue 20, Wed 21 & Thu  
22 December, 7.30pm**

St Paul's Church, Birmingham  
£40 / £30 / £20 / £12.50 <sup>2</sup>  
0121 780 3333

<sup>1</sup> This concert will be performed, unaccompanied by our Consort of 10 singers.

<sup>2</sup> Includes per ticket commission, see p12.

<sup>3</sup> Plus a booking fee of £2 by phone, £1.50 online.

You are invited to bring your own mulled wine and mince pie for the interval in Birmingham.

These concerts will end at approximately 10pm.

# ANGELS, STARS & KINGS

Christmas Music  
by Candlelight -  
family concert

**Ex Cathedra**  
**Ex Cathedra Academy of Vocal Music**

**Jeffrey Skidmore** conductor  
**Alexander Mason** organ

The whole family can share in the beauty, mystery and enchantment of Christmas Music by Candlelight, with this hour-long concert. There are seasonal favourites and choral music to inspire, plus a special selection of readings for younger audiences.

We invite you to come dressed as an Angel, star or king.

**Wednesday 21 December, 4pm**

**St Paul's Church, Birmingham**  
**£12.50 (adults) / £5 (under 16s) <sup>1</sup>**  
**0121 780 3333**

<sup>1</sup>Exempt from per ticket commission.

Particularly recommended for children aged 6 and above.

# Dido & Aeneas

**Purcell** Rejoice in the Lord alway  
**Purcell** My beloved spake  
**Purcell** Dido and Aeneas

**Ex Cathedra & Baroque Ensemble**

**Jeffrey Skidmore** conductor  
**Katie Trethewey** Dido  
**Greg Skidmore** Aeneas  
**Angela Hicks** Belinda  
**Martha McLorinan** Sorceress  
**Amy Wood** First Witch  
**Elizabeth Adams** Second Witch  
**Jeremy Budd** Sailor

Purcell's opera tells the tragic tale of the Queen of Carthage as she falls in love with a Trojan Prince, and her heartbreak when, deceived by a Sorceress, he abandons her. It portrays the full gamut of human emotion, culminating in the haunting melancholy of Dido's famous lament - "When I am laid in earth".

*"superb  
... a privilege"*

New York Times

**Sunday 5 February, 4pm**

Town Hall, Birmingham  
£40 / £30 / £20 / £12.50<sup>1</sup>  
0121 780 3333

<sup>1</sup> Includes per ticket commission, see p12.

This concert will finish at approximately 6pm.

**Friday 14 April, 2pm**

Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
£43 / £38 / £31 / £22 / £12.50<sup>1</sup>  
0121 780 3333

<sup>1</sup> Includes per ticket commission, see p12.

This concert is also part of the Birmingham Classical season, discounts may vary.

Sung in German with English surtitles.

There will be an extended interval and the concert will finish around 4.15pm.

# Good Friday Bach

## *St John Passion*

**Ex Cathedra Choir & Baroque Orchestra**  
**Ex Cathedra Academy of Vocal Music**

**Jeffrey Skidmore** conductor  
**Jeremy Budd** Evangelist  
**James Geidt** Jesus  
**Greg Skidmore** Pilate  
**Angela Hicks, Katie Trethewey** soprano  
**Martha McLorinan** alto  
**Bradley Smith** tenor

Bach's *St John Passion* is more than one of the greatest of all sacred works. It's a profound human drama; a heartbreaking musical exploration of timeless hopes and sorrows. As the final hours of Christ's life are told, we are drawn by Bach's music to feel the anger of the crowd, share the sorrow of the solo reflections and to empathize with Pilate's predicament.

*"particularly special"*

**Gramophone**

# In a *Strange* Land

**Byrd** Mass for Four Voices

**Tallis** If ye love me

**Padilla** Missa Ego flos campi

**Lobo** Versa est in luctum

**Anon** Dulce Jesús mío

**Ex Cathedra Consort**

**Jeffrey Skidmore** conductor

“How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?”

This verse from Psalm 137, a hymn of captivity, gives this programme its title and theme, as we explore man’s search for heaven and earth. There is music of religious conflict and of exploration from across Renaissance Europe and from Latin America – where the world of the Incas and Aztecs meets the world of the Conquistadors to create rhythmically-arresting and evocative repertoire.

*“Fascinating discoveries performed with great feeling and panache”*  
Telegraph

**Wednesday 26 April, 7.30pm**

Cadogan Hall, London

£31 / £27 / £23 / £19<sup>1</sup>

020 7730 4500

<sup>1</sup> A transaction fee of £3 applies to all bookings except those made in person.

# Summer Music by *Candlelight*

**Ex Cathedra**

**Jeffrey Skidmore** conductor

A programme of glorious music for a magical midsummer evening, performed by the soft glow of candlelight as daylight fades. The music and readings are inspired by birdsong and by the season - uplifting repertoire to send you home singing of summertime.

If you enjoy Christmas Music by Candlelight you will love this concert.

*“Spine-tinglingly lovely ... a  
breathtaking  
feat of pure ensemble  
singing”*

**Birmingham Post**

**Tuesday 20 June, 8pm**

**Birmingham Cathedral**  
**£40 / £30 / £20 / £12.50<sup>1</sup>**  
**0121 780 3333**

<sup>1</sup> Includes per ticket commission, see p12.

# Booking information

- **Book online at [www.excathedral.co.uk](http://www.excathedral.co.uk) and choose your seat**  
(from 22 June 2016)
- **Or call the box office number listed next to the date on the relevant concert page**
- **Or complete and return the booking form**  
(please note that this only includes concerts sold through the THSH box office)

Priority booking for our concert packages and our Host of Angels begins on 25 May 2016. See the box for the savings you make by booking 3 or more concerts, save the per ticket commission, and enjoy priority booking.

Tickets for anyone buying 2 or more concerts go on sale on 10 June 2016. <sup>1</sup>

Tickets for single concerts go on sale on 22 June 2016. <sup>1</sup>

## **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**

Book before 30 June 2016 and save a further 10%. <sup>1</sup>

## **PER TICKET COMMISSION**

From 4 April 2016 THSH introduced a 'per ticket commission' - £2.50 per ticket for online transactions and £3 per ticket for telephone and in person transactions. Group bookings (which can be made by phone or email) are subject to a £1 per ticket fee. No fee applies to tickets priced £12.50 and under, or those purchased as part of a concert package (unless those tickets are posted, in which case there is a postage fee of £1.50). Prices quoted on concert pages include the maximum you may be charged.

## **WHEELCHAIR USERS AND DISABLED PATRONS**

Designated wheelchair and companion tickets are available at all venues. Please ask the box office for details when booking.

## **STUDENTS & UNDER 30**

£5 for anyone in full time education or aged 17 and younger.

£8 for anyone aged 18-30 not in full time education. <sup>1</sup>

## **GROUPS OF 11 OR MORE**

Bring a group of 11 or more people and save 20%. Email [groupbookings@thsh.co.uk](mailto:groupbookings@thsh.co.uk) or call free on 0800 358 7070 (10am to 5pm Monday to Friday). Please note all tickets must be paid in one transaction. <sup>1</sup>

## **STANDBY DISCOUNTS**

Available from 1pm on the day of evening performances (10am on matinees):

- Passport to Leisure holders £12.50
- Benefit Recipients £5

Qualifying benefits are Universal Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit and Disability Tax Credit. Please call the Box Office for further information. Proof of eligibility may be required. <sup>1</sup>

**Priority booking,  
save your per ticket  
commission,  
and get up to**

**30% off**

**Just book 3 or more concerts <sup>1</sup>**

**3 concerts – save 10%**

**4 concerts – save 15%**

**5 concerts – save 20%**

**6 concerts – save 30%**

You can enjoy priority booking, choose your preferred tickets - including additional tickets for your friends and family - and combine different price bands at different concerts to suit your requirements.

You can include any of the concerts sold through the THSH box office.

Excludes tickets priced £12.50 and under, and our Angels, Stars and Kings concert.

Packages can be booked by post, using the adjacent form, or by calling the THSH Box Office on 0121 780 3333.

## **TICKET EXCHANGE SCHEME**

You can exchange package tickets for the same priced seats for any other concert in our 2016-17 season, subject to availability. Each original ticket must be produced and may be exchanged once; subsequent exchanges will be charged at £3 per concert. To avoid long queues, tickets cannot be exchanged in the run up to a performance, though you may leave your details for the exchange to be processed later.

<sup>1</sup> Applies to concerts sold through the THSH box office, details for other concerts vary, please check with the relevant box office when booking.

# Booking Form Part 1 – Choose your concerts

I am booking a concert package\*, or am a member of Ex Cathedra's Host of Angels

I am buying 2 or more tickets and know that my order cannot be processed until 7 June 2016

I am booking single tickets only and know that my order cannot be processed until 22 June 2016

DATE		CONCERT	PACKAGE TICKETS		ADDITIONAL TICKETS		
			Number of tickets (must be the same for each concert)	Total payable for subscription tickets before package discount	Number of tickets	Total payable for additional tickets (no package discount)	
6 Nov 2016		Bach Mass in B Minor					
3 Dec 2016		Christmas Music by Candlelight (Wolverhampton)					
4 Dec 2016		A Brazilian Christmas					
7 Dec 2016		Christmas Music by Candlelight (Hereford)					
19 Dec 2016		Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham)					
20 Dec 2016		Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham)					
21 Dec 2016		Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham)					
22 Dec 2016		Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham)					
5 Feb 2017		Purcell <i>Dido &amp; Aeneas</i>					
14 Apr 2017		Good Friday Bach <i>St John Passion</i>					
20 Jun 2017		Summer Music by Candlelight					
<p>*You must book the same number of tickets per concert for each party member to qualify for the package discounts. Packages are calculated by the number of different concert titles.</p>			Subscription subtotal				
			Subtotal after deducting £3 per ticket commission (applies if booking tickets for 3+ different concerts per person)				
			Less ___ %Discount				
			Subscription total		+	Additional tickets total	
					+	Early Bird discount (10% if tickets booked by 30 June 2016)	
			<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				

Please write any special seating requirements here: \_\_\_\_\_

# Booking Form Part 2 – Payment Details

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name/initial \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

## BOOK BY POST

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'Performances Birmingham Limited' with the amount payable left blank and an upper limit of £ \_\_\_\_\_ written in the bottom left corner of the cheque.

Please note the THSH box office only accept cheques for postal bookings and no longer accept cash or card payments.

**Data protection, please read.** Your details will be held and processed on THSH's Box Office database and Ex Cathedra or THSH may wish to reach you by any one of your contact details in order to administer the booking of concert packages and to send you information on our programme of events, and information from companies offering discounts and special offers to concert package bookers. In addition, other companies carefully selected by Ex Cathedra and THSH may wish to send you information. If you do not want to receive this, or if you do not want us to pass on your contact details, please tick this box .

Send your completed form to

'Ex Cathedra Concert Packages', THSH Box Office,  
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2EA

If you have any queries, please call the box office on 0121 780 3333.

# Beyond the Concert Season

Alongside our season of concerts, we deliver an extensive programme of education and participation projects, engaging tens of thousands of people in singing every year.

Now 12 years old, and having reached over 700 schools across the UK and 4 continents, **Singing Playgrounds** trains children to share, lead, create and adapt singing games for their peers in their school playground. Its sister projects **ChoirMaker** and **SingMaker** help schools set up choirs and develop choral singing in schools and for festivals, whilst **Singing Connections** supports learning in literacy and numeracy.

We also run our **Academy of Vocal Music** training choirs: a Children's Choir, Junior Academy, Girl's Academy, Boy's Academy. We are pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining us, we'll invite you to join a rehearsal and find out more.

For more information about any of these activities, please email [education@excathedra.co.uk](mailto:education@excathedra.co.uk) or call 0121 616 3412.

*"A school without Singing Playgrounds is a school without a soul"*  
(Teacher, Birmingham)

Also 12 years old, **Singing Medicine** uses the far-reaching benefits of singing to brighten the lives of chronically ill children, and their families in hospital.

**Singing Pathways** supports the recovery of patients who have suffered a stroke, helping to unlock speech and memory, and **Singing Bonds** builds confidence for new mothers in singing to their newborn child - increasingly understood as crucial in the development of language and bonding.



With thanks to Sandvik for more than 25 years of support as our Principal Education Sponsor.



Ex Cathedra (registered charity no. 1004086) believes in the power of choral singing to change lives. From our home in Birmingham, we aim to explore, research and commission the finest choral music, nurture talent and set the highest standards of excellence in performance and training. Ticket sales contribute approximately half the income needed to present our concerts, and we are indebted to a range of supporters to make our work possible. We would like to thank them all.

## PUBLIC FUNDERS



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Birmingham City Council**



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## CORPORATE PATRONS



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## INDIVIDUALS

The donations from our Host of Angels makes a tremendous difference to our work, and is needed more than ever to deliver our exciting plans as public funding declines. Could you **give the gift of singing?** Be an Angel today! Thank you.

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programmes and artists if necessary; in this eventuality  
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prices may vary; customers will have to pay the prevailing  
price at the time of booking.