



*'a phenomenal feat of musicianship'* (The New Yorker)

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

## Ex Cathedra Scholarships Programme 2017-18

**What is it:** year-long choral Scholarship with funding for 4 of the UK's very best young singers  
**Who is it for:** singers who will finish their degrees this summer, or finished in the past 2-3 years, are not continuing in education, and are focussed on being professional singers  
**Deadline:** Monday 12 June 2017, 9am  
**Auditions:** Wednesday 21, Thursday 22 & Friday 23 June 2017 - save the dates!

### About Ex Cathedra

Ex Cathedra is one of the UK's leading choirs and Early Music ensembles, based in Birmingham. We to aim explore, research and commission the finest choral music and aim to set the highest standards for excellence in performance and training. We perform perhaps the widest repertoire of any professional choir in the country; our 2017-18 season will include repertoire from Byrd, Monteverdi, Carissimi, Charpentier, Bach and Mozart to James MacMillan, David Matthews, Roxanna Panufnik and Elis Pekkonen.

Jeffrey Skidmore founded Ex Cathedra in 1969, and his track record of identifying and supporting young singers is unrivalled. A long list of singers who credit Jeffrey and Ex Cathedra for supporting the early part of their career includes Carolyn Sampson, Paul Agnew (Associate Musical Director of Les Arts Florissants), Nigel Short (founder of Tenebrae), Diana Moore, Benjamin Hulett, Andrew Tortise, Marcus Farnsworth, Samuel Boden, Patrick Dunachie and many more.

We're delighted to announce a new scheme that will support four of the very best young singers each year as they take their first steps as professionals, offering a year-long scholarship scheme to work alongside Jeffrey and our talented and loyal team of musicians.

### What we are offering

Successful candidates will receive funds of £3,250.

You will gain real life experience of working with a professional choir, including time and diary management, and develop your singing in a professional and supportive environment by:

- rehearsing and performing a wide range of repertoire stylistically, learning the different approaches required
- observing further rehearsals and concerts given by our Consort of 10 singers
- observing solo rehearsals involving Carolyn Sampson, Elizabeth Cragg, Toby Spence and James Rutherford, as well as our own highly-regarded emerging soloists
- mentoring from one of our established professional singers
- attending termly one-to-one feedback sessions with Jeffrey Skidmore
- accessing masterclasses given by soloists and via our links to Birmingham Conservatoire
- spend c.5 days observing Ex Cathedra's Vocal Tutors as they deliver projects in schools, hospitals etc

The scheme will help you bridge the skills gap between educational and professional standard, significantly increasing your chances of being offered further professional work by Ex Cathedra and other UK choirs. By working alongside and learning from some of the UK's finest professional singers, you will develop an invaluable network of contacts and raise your profile within the industry.

### Your commitment

If you are offered and accept a Scholarship, we will send you a Code of Conduct setting out our expectations. In short:

- you are expected to complete the year and make the most of the opportunities provided!
- you must reliably attend c.20 rehearsals and c.15 concerts over the course of the year
- you must attend your termly feedback sessions with Jeffrey Skidmore
- you will be provided with complimentary tickets and encouraged to attend concerts that you are not performing in, help out with stewarding etc
- to write 1-2 short accounts of your experience during the year
- to acknowledge your Scholarship with Ex Cathedra in your future biographies

Aside from these commitments you are encouraged to build up a portfolio of freelance work.

We will undertake a DBS safeguarding check before you observe any of our work with children or vulnerable adults.

### Who is eligible

To apply, we expect you:

- will be about to embark or have embarked on a career as a professional singer in the last 2-3 years
- normally you will have studied or are about to finish a degree-level course in music with singing lessons
- or, exceptionally, you have recently changed career to focus on being a professional singer

If you are in full-time or part-time education (undergraduate or postgraduate), you are not eligible to apply unless you will have completed your course by the time your Scholarship starts. However, if you are studying at Birmingham Conservatoire we have a new [Student Scholarship scheme](#), and would be pleased to receive an application for that scheme.

If you aren't sure, please give us a call to discuss.

### How do I apply, and what's the process?

Please complete the application form below and return it with your supporting reference by 9am on Monday 12 June 2017. Late entries will not be accepted.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend one of our workshop and audition days on 21-23 June in Birmingham. Please reserve those dates in your diary. We will endeavour to let you know whether or not you are invited to attend by Wednesday 14 June.

*Ex Cathedra would like to thank the Foyle Foundation, Fenton Arts Trust, the Mercers Company, and the Benarr Rainbow Trust for their generous support of this scheme.*



*'a phenomenal feat of musicianship'* (The New Yorker)

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

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2017-18

<b>Name:</b>				
<b>Address:</b>				
<b>Email:</b>		<b>Age at application :</b>		
<b>Home number:</b>		<b>Mobile number:</b>		
<b>University:</b>				
<b>Graduation date:</b>		<b>Degree obtained/expected:</b>		
<b>Current work place/job, if applicable:</b>				
<b>Voice part (please indicate):</b>	Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
<b>Singing experience:</b>				
<b>Current singing teacher:</b>				
<b>Where/how did you hear about this scheme?</b>				
<b>What are your reasons for applying? What do you hope to achieve during a Scholarship year? And what are your long-term aspirations?</b>				

Please complete and return this form, your singing CV if you have one, and a letter of recommendation from your singing teacher (where appropriate) or alternative reference to: Ashley Turnell, Concerts Producer, Ex Cathedra, CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, Birmingham B1 2LF / [ash@excathedra.co.uk](mailto:ash@excathedra.co.uk).

Find out more about Ex Cathedra at [www.excathedra.co.uk](http://www.excathedra.co.uk)  
Get social at [www.facebook.com/excathedra](http://www.facebook.com/excathedra) & [@excathedrachoir](https://twitter.com/excathedrachoir)