



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

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

Ex Cathedra Scholarships 2018-19

My time as a Scholar will have a big impact on my career, it has helped me to understand the standard you have to attain and maintain, and given me the confidence to approach and audition for other groups. I have made invaluable contacts, several of which have involved me in solo and ensemble work.

I recommend this scheme highly to anyone interested in a career as a classical solo or ensemble singer, the welcoming nature and 'family' feel of the whole organisation is an added bonus.

(Sacha Fullerton, 2017-18 Scholar)

- 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 4 June 2018, 9am
Auditions: Friday 22 June 2018 - save the date!

About Ex Cathedra

Ex Cathedra is one of the UK's leading choirs and Early Music ensembles, based in Birmingham. We 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 2018-19 season will include repertoire from Tallis *Spem in alium*, Purcell and Bach to Alec Roth, James MacMillan, Roxanna Panufnik and Liz Johnson.

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 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 invite applications for the second year of our Scholarships scheme. We look forward to supporting four of the very best young singers, offering a year-long programme of work.

What we are offering

Successful candidates will be guaranteed payment of £4,000.

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
- 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
- observing our Vocal Tutors as they deliver projects in schools and hospitals

Our ambition is that the scheme will help your professional development, increasing your chances of being offered professional work by Ex Cathedra and other choirs. By working alongside and learning from some of the UK's finest professional singers, you should 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 contract 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.25 rehearsals and c.22 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 complete 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. If you are studying at Birmingham Conservatoire do take a look at our [Student Scholarship scheme](#).

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

How to apply

Please complete the application form below and return it with your supporting reference by 9am on Monday 4 June 2018. Late entries will not be accepted.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend our workshop and audition day on Friday 22 June in Birmingham. Please reserve the date in your diary. Towards the end of the day all applicants will be involved in a short, informal performance of repertoire rehearsed during the workshop session, performed to a small audience of invited guests.

We will endeavour to let you know whether or not you are invited to attend for an audition by Wednesday 13 June.

Ex Cathedra would like to thank the Bernarr Rainbow Trust, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Eranda Foundation, Fidelio Trust, Fenton Arts Trust, Foyle Foundation, Idlewild Trust, Mercers Company and the Radcliffe Trust for their generous support of this scheme.



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SCHOLARS APPLICATION FORM 2018-19

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

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.

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