



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

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



**BIRMINGHAM**  
CONSERVATOIRE

## Ex Cathedra Student Scholarships Programme 2017-18

- What is it:** a choral Scholarship for 4 of Birmingham Conservatoire's very best singers to develop their skills by rehearsing and performing with Ex Cathedra, alongside their studies
- 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, and is based in Birmingham. We aim to 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 Conservatoire singers each year alongside their studies, offering a year-long opportunity to rehearse and perform with Jeffrey and Ex Cathedra's talented musicians.

### What we are offering

Successful Student Scholars will receive a grant from the Conservatoire of £1,500 and Ex Cathedra will reimburse certain expenses.

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
- you may be invited to observe further rehearsals and concerts given by our Consort of 10 singers and/or soloist rehearsals
- attending termly one-to-one feedback sessions with Jeffrey Skidmore

This scheme will help you prepare to work at a professional standard, significantly increasing your chances of being offered professional work by Ex Cathedra and other UK choirs upon graduation. By working alongside and learning from some of the UK's finest professional singers, you will develop an invaluable network of contacts.

## Your commitment

If you are offered and accept a Student Scholarship place 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.16 rehearsals and take part in c.7 concerts over the course of the year
- you must attend 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 Student Scholarship with Ex Cathedra in your future biographies

Ex Cathedra and Birmingham Conservatoire will agree the dates in advance to ensure there are no clashes with your Conservatoire commitments. Unexpected date clashes that arise are to be agreed with Ex Cathedra and the Conservatoire Head of Vocal Studies, and your Student Scholarship will take precedence over any external date clashes, except in exceptional circumstances which must also be agreed with Ex Cathedra and the Conservatoire Head of Vocal Studies.

## Who is eligible

To apply:

- you must be enrolled to study an undergraduate or postgraduate course at Birmingham Conservatoire for the duration of 2017-18
- you will normally be a first study singer
- you will normally be entering your 3<sup>rd</sup> year or above

Singers will hold a Student Scholarship for one year, but you will be able to reapply in subsequent years if you continue to study at the Conservatoire and meet the above criteria.

If you aren't sure, please discuss with Jeffrey or Paul Wingfield.

If you are due to complete your education this year, you may be interested in Ex Cathedra's [Scholarship scheme](#), and we would be pleased to receive an application for that scheme.

## 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.



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**EX CATHEDRA STUDENT 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>Graduation date:</b>			<b>Degree studied:</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)  
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