



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

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



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Ex Cathedra Student 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, and the welcoming nature and 'family' feel of the whole organisation is an added bonus.

(Sacha Fullerton, 2017-18 Scholar)

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 4 June 2018, 9am

Auditions: Thursday 21 June 2018 - save the date!

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 2018-19 season will include repertoire from Tallis *Spem in alium*, Monteverdi, 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 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 invite applications for the second year of our Student Scholarships scheme, supporting up to four of the very best young Conservatoire singers each year alongside their studies, with a year-long programme of rehearsals and concerts.

What are we 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.15 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 2018-19
- you will normally be a first study singer
- you will normally be entering your 2nd 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 Skidmore, Paul Wingfield or call the Ex Cathedra office.

If you are due to complete your education this year, you may be interested in Ex Cathedra's [Scholarship scheme](#).

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 Thursday 21 June at the Conservatoire. Please reserve the date in your diary. We will endeavour to let you know whether or not you are invited to attend by Wednesday 13 June.



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EX CATHEDRA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2018-19

Name:					
Address:					
Email:				Age at application :	
Home number:		Mobile number:			
Graduation date:		Degree studied:			
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
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