



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

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



ROYAL  
BIRMINGHAM  
CONSERVATOIRE

## Ex Cathedra Student Scholarships 2019-20

*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, worth £1500, for 4 singers from the vocal department at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to develop their skills by rehearsing and performing with Ex Cathedra, alongside their studies

**Apply by:** Thursday 9 May 2019, 12pm

**Auditions:** Wednesday 22 May 2019

If you are shortlisted we will communicate the timetable to you on or by Thursday 16 May. The day will include group workshops as well as an individual audition, so please save the whole day.

### About Ex Cathedra

Ex Cathedra is a leading UK choir and Early Music ensemble, 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 - the best, the unfamiliar and the unexpected! Our 2019-20 season will include choral classics by Rachmaninoff, Bach and Beethoven to music by Roxanna Panufnik, Alec Roth, Liz Johnson and Penelope Thwaites.

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

We're delighted to invite applications for the third year of this unique Student Scholarships scheme.

## What we offer

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

This scheme will help you prepare to work at a professional standard, and increase your chance of being offered professional work by Ex Cathedra and other choirs after you graduate. 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 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 (punctually) attend c.16 rehearsals and take part in c.15 concerts over the course of the year, dates to be provided on your work schedule at the beginning 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 the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire will agree the dates in advance to avoid clashes with your Conservatoire commitments. Unexpected date clashes that arise will be agreed with Ex Cathedra and the Conservatoire Head of Vocal Studies. Your Student Scholarship must take precedence over any other date clashes, except where agreed with Ex Cathedra and the Conservatoire Head of Vocal Studies.

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

## Who is eligible

To apply:

- you must be enrolled to study an undergraduate or postgraduate course in the vocal department at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire for the duration of 2019-20
- you will normally be entering your 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate, 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 on 0121 616 3410.

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 12pm on Thursday 9 May 2019. Late entries are unlikely to be accepted.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend our workshop and audition day on Wednesday 22 May in Birmingham. Please reserve the date in your diary. During the the day all applicants may be involved in a short, informal, unticketed performance of repertoire rehearsed during the workshop session.

We will let you know whether or not you are invited to attend for an audition on or by Thursday 16 May.



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

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



ROYAL  
BIRMINGHAM  
CONSERVATOIRE

### EX CATHEDRA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2019-20

<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>Email:</b>		<b>Age at application:</b> (20-23 / 24-29 / 30-39 / 40+)	
<b>Phone number:</b>		<b>Voice (SATB):</b>	
<b>Degree studied:</b>		<b>Graduation date :</b>	
<b>Singing experience:</b>			
<b>Current singing teacher:</b>			
<b>Where/how did you hear about this scheme?</b>			
<b>Short personal statement.</b>  What are your reasons for applying? What do you hope to achieve during a Scholarship year? What are your long-term aspirations?			

Please complete and return this form by Thursday 9 May, 12pm. Please include a singing CV if you have one, and a letter of recommendation from your singing teacher, or equivalent, and send to:

Ashley Turnell, Concerts Producer, Ex Cathedra, CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, Birmingham B1 2LF / [ash@excathedra.co.uk](mailto:ash@excathedra.co.uk).