



*"one of Britain's very best choirs"* (New York Times)

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

## Ex Cathedra - Chair

Ex Cathedra, a leading UK choir and Early Music ensemble, is seeking a Chair of Trustees to succeed the current Chair who will be stepping down from the role in summer 2020.

Our mission is to share our knowledge and love of singing with as many people as possible, giving our audiences and participants outstanding vocal, cultural and emotional experiences. Read more in our [Point of view](#).

During the term of the next Chair, we aim to make a further step-change in fundraising and build on the ambitious plans developed for our 50th anniversary. The smooth transition to a successor for founder Jeffrey Skidmore will be of crucial importance.

We are seeking interest from candidates:

- with a strong interest in/passion for music, and the role of music in education and health/wellbeing sectors
- with the ability, time and contacts to actively support the desired step-change in fundraising, e.g. with a record and network in arts philanthropic circles
- who can lead the Board effectively, ensuring good governance and financial management
- able to marry strategic direction and financial stability with artistic aspirations
- who can build productive relationships with multiple stakeholders, including public funders
- with the time and willingness to be in Birmingham on a regular basis
- able to act as a passionate advocate for Ex Cathedra e.g. by attending concerts and hosting related events

We anticipate you will be Midlands-based, with experience of chairing a charity or business. You will understand the importance of addressing the challenges and opportunities of diversity within the arts sector.

The position is voluntary. Board meetings are held quarterly in Birmingham, with delegated subgroups meeting at other times.

To express interest, please send a CV together with a short covering letter to:

Jill Robinson, Search Committee, Ex Cathedra, CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, Birmingham B1 2LF  
or email [info@excathedra.co.uk](mailto:info@excathedra.co.uk), marked FAO Jill Robinson

The deadline for expressions of interest is Friday 27 March 2020. We will arrange a preliminary meeting with you. Any offer of the role will be subject to a satisfactory DBS check.

More details about the role can be provided on request, and we should be pleased to arrange a conversation with Jill Robinson (trustee) who is leading the search committee, or current chair Graham Mackenzie. Please call Peter Trethewey, General Manager on 0121 616 3411 to arrange this.

Ex Cathedra is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity and values diversity. To help us monitor our ability to reach a range of applicants, please complete our [Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form](#), which is anonymous and not used as part of the search process.

## About Ex Cathedra



Ex Cathedra is a leading UK choir and Early Music ensemble with a repertoire that reaches from the 12th to the 21st centuries. Founded in 1969 by Jeffrey Skidmore, the group has grown into a unique musical resource, comprising specialist chamber choir, vocal Consort, period-instrument orchestra and a thriving education programme, aiming to explore, research and commission the finest choral music and to set the highest standards in performance and training.

We present a series of concerts in Birmingham - where we are an Associate Artist at Town Hall & Symphony Hall - across the Midlands, and in London. We enjoy invitations to appear at festivals and concert series across the UK and abroad.

As well as bringing new insights to choral masterpieces, we are committed to expanding the choral repertoire. We have recorded three best-selling CDs of newly re-discovered music from the Latin American Baroque and are regarded as leading interpreters of music from the French Baroque.

We are also proud of our reputation for championing new choral music. Highlights in recent years have included Stockhausen's 'World Parliament' from *Mittwoch aus Licht*, James MacMillan's oratorio *Seven Angels*, *A Shakespeare Masque* by the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and composer Sally Beamish, and several major works from Alec Roth.

*"a phenomenal feat of musicianship"* (New Yorker)

Ex Cathedra has made a significant number of highly regarded recordings for ASV, Hyperion, NMC, Orchid Classics, SOMM, Signum, and on its own label. *A French Baroque Diva* with Carolyn Sampson won a Gramophone Award in 2015 whilst *Britten to America* was Grammy nominated. The most recent release, *Celestial Bird*, surveys the choral music of Roxanna Panufnik, and includes two Ex Cathedra commissions.

An extensive programme of award-winning schools and community projects is delivered by a team of expert Vocal Tutors, all members of Ex Cathedra. *Singing Playgrounds* has reached over 900 primary schools across the UK and also schools in Belgium, China, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand. *Singing Medicine* works bedside on every ward, every week at Birmingham Children's Hospital. *Singing Pathways* provides weekly group sessions for stroke patients at Solihull Hospital.

Nurturing talent is at the heart of our work. Our Academy of Vocal Music provides a choral training pathway for children and young people aged 2-18. Our Scholarships programme provides a year-long scheme for recent graduates as they establish their singing career, and our Student Scholarships provide opportunities for singers at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Our newest initiative, our Associate Conductor scheme enables emerging conductors to spend 5 months working intensively with Ex Cathedra and Jeffrey Skidmore.