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Jeffrey Skidmore OBE Artistic Director & Conductor



Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine: Let's make a story...

Story making competition: Terms and Conditions

1. The competition is organised by Ex Cathedra as part of its Singing Medicine project
2. Entry to this competition is open to persons in the following UK school year groups, or international equivalents:

Group A School years 1 and 2

Group B School years 3 and 4

Group C School years 5 and 6

Entries must be submitted by an adult (parent/guardian or teacher) on behalf of the child; this adult must have parental permission. This adult may be asked, with parental permission, to provide proof of age, identity and eligibility.

3. Entrants must create a fictional short story. Stories can be written word (no more than 500 words in length), picture stories or a combination of both. Entries, along with the submission form, are to be emailed to noahbear@excathedra.co.uk (a GoogleDrive link may also be sent – permission to access given in noahbear@excathedra.co.uk) The responsible adult submitting the story on behalf of the entrant, will be asked to provide the entrant's name, school (or state if home-schooled) and their age and year group and ensure that they have parental permission to do so. If stories are hand written or hand drawn, then copies should be scanned and emailed.

4. All written word stories should be submitted in English.

5. We are unable to accept postal entries

6. The adult submitting the entrant's story, will be required to approve the entry and agree to these Rules (including Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine's use of the story submitted and the fictional nature of the story) on behalf of the entrant, by way of a check-box on the submission form. The adult may be the child's parent, guardian or teacher. The adult must provide their own contact and personal details (not the child's). Teachers submitting stories on behalf of pupils must seek parental permission and if requested by Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine, provide evidence of permission in the event of an enquiry or complaint.

7. For the winning entries, where permission is given by a teacher, Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine will contact the teacher and ask for confirmation of permission from the entrant's parent or guardian.

8. Entry closes on Friday 27th November 2020 at 20:00. Submissions received after this time will not be considered. You will receive an automatic reply when you submit your entries, to confirm your email has been received.

9. If users have emailed the administrators and are awaiting a response, the competition deadline still stands. Unless the competition administrators have explicitly instructed otherwise, all users must submit stories by the deadline in order to be considered in the competition.

10. Only one entry per person is permitted and the story must be wholly created by the entrant only; stories cannot be created by more than one person.

11. Entries must be an original piece of fiction and not an account of real events – either historical or current. However, stories can feature well known public figures from history (e.g. Charles Darwin) take place in historical eras (e.g. the English Civil War) or use real-life experiences as a creative springboard as long as the story is FICTIONAL. If entrants are unclear on whether the content of a story contradicts these Rules, they may email the competition administrators at education@excathedra.co.uk. The entrant's parent, guardian or teacher warrants that they have not used material or depicted events that actually took place or used the personal details of any living persons in the story. As the stories will be published it is important that entrants do not include any personal details about themselves. The entrant must not include their name in the title or body of the story; entries which do contain this information may be removed from the competition.

12. Entries cannot be returned so please remember to retain a copy. Unsuccessful entrants will be contacted in respect of their entry but no feedback on any entry will be provided. Every child who submits a story will receive a certificate acknowledging their entry (templates will be sent to schools, to be handed out to all children who took part).

13. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine accepts no responsibility if entrants ignore these Rules and the entrant's parent, guardian or teacher agrees to indemnify Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine against any claim by any third party from any breach of these Rules.

14. Entries must not contain defamatory, obscene, offensive, or any other unsuitable material; Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine reserves the right to disqualify entries containing such matter. Entries must be suitable to be published or used online by Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine for audiences of all ages, but in particular for a child audience. If the story has troubling content Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine may if required take advice from the NSPCC, and may refer the Troubling Content to the relevant authorities – in line with Ex Cathedra's Safeguarding policy (available on our [website](#))

15. Entrants retain the copyright in their entries but their parent or guardian grants to Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine a perpetual non-exclusive royalty-free licence to publish, broadcast (across all media) and post the entry online and on any other platforms yet to be envisaged. This licence will be deemed to include all the necessary rights and permissions to enable such use by Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine, to fulfil the prizes and to complete the administration of this competition.

16. By submitting a story the entrant's parent or guardian agrees that Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine may at its sole discretion edit, adapt, abridge or translate the entry for the purposes listed in clause 15 above.

17. Entrants agree in clause 15 that Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine may publish the stories on their website for the duration of 5 years, after which all names and attribution will be removed.

18. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Originality
- Plot
- Characterisation
- Enjoyment/Engagement

19. The first round will be judged by teachers in schools using the criteria above. Teachers will choose 2 entries from each category to send to noahbear@excathedra.co.uk. If you are homeschooling, you can simply send your child's completed story to us directly, ticking the appropriate box on the submission form.

20. The second round will be judged by our team of Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine Vocal Tutors. They will score the submissions sent, using the criteria in clause 18.

21. In the final round, 30 entries (10 for each category) will be sent to the judges (Rhian Ivory and Joanna Harrison). From here, the judges will choose a Grand Overall Winner, a winner for each category and 2 runners up for each category. All children who reach the final will receive a highly commended certificate.

22. The winners of each category will be given the opportunity to have their story reimaged at Vada Studios in Warwickshire e.g. turned into a film. All winners and runners-up will receive a Noah Teddy Bear

23. The grand winner of the whole competition will be asked to choose the name for the next Singing Medicine Teddy Bear.

24. Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine is unable to provide travel or accommodation to winners when they attend Vada Studios.

25. Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine's decision in each category is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

26. Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine reserves the right to disqualify any entry which breaches any of these Rules, brings Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine into disrepute or to withhold a prize if in its opinion entries do not reach the required standard.

27. Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine reserves the right to amend these Rules or cancel this competition at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control.

28. Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine, its sub-contractors, subsidiaries, agencies and/or any other organisation associated with this competition cannot accept any responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or malfunction or any other problem with any server, Internet access, system or otherwise which may result in any entry being lost or not properly registered or recorded. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.

29. These Rules are governed by the laws of England and Wales.