



# EX CATHEDRA

[www.excathedra.co.uk](http://www.excathedra.co.uk)

## Supporting the next 50 years of your world-class choir

*"Words can scarcely convey the impact Ex Cathedra makes on the vocal world."*

**Birmingham Post**

*"The most sophisticated and multi-layered of all the leading choral groups in the country."*

**Cheltenham Festival  
Director**



**Ex Cathedra is like no other choir. We engage over 90,000 people every year. Our repertoire spans 10 centuries. Our training embraces everyone from toddlers to professionals.**

Our vision is to create a culture of singing excellence, innovation and integrity, where everyone has the opportunity to be inspired by the power of choral singing.

As we celebrate our first half century and excitedly look ahead, we are aware the coming years will bring big changes, including the appointment of a successor to our founder, Jeffrey Skidmore.

Just as significant will be the transition to a funding model that relies much more on individual giving. Over the last 10 years our public funding has fallen by 40%. In order to maintain the breadth of our repertoire, the inclusivity of our education

programme, the quality of our research and so much more, we need your help.

Public funding now accounts for less than 8% of our income, whereas our fundraising already contributes 45%. We are an incredibly lean organisation, we are working to diversify our income, and we are attracting new audiences.

But to secure our future and continue our work as the region's foremost ambassador for choral singing we need to raise an additional £50,000 this year, and more in the future. Not doing so risks serious cuts to our activities.

Please help keep world-class choral singing alive in the Midlands by becoming an Angel, or just contributing what you can. **Thank you!**

## Our key priorities

### Expand the choral repertoire

We aim to research and perform little-known music of the past, and to commission and premiere great new choral work, while continuing to cast new light on established masterpieces. We have plans to develop:

- a programme of new commissions from local and national composers, with a continued commitment to supporting female composers
- new models for exploring choral music from different cultures



*Our Christmas Music by Candlelight programme last year included 14 pieces by living composers, including 4 female composers.*

## Develop and nurture emerging talent

We support talent through our unique Associate Conductors scheme, our graduate and student choral Scholarships, and our training choirs. We plan to:

- appoint two Associate Conductors per year
- appoint an Assistant Artistic Director in 2021 as part of our succession planning
- offer 4 graduate Scholarships and 4 Student Scholarships each year
- inspire the very young through our new parent and toddler sessions



*We have an enviable track record of identifying and supporting young talent. A long list of musicians includes Carolyn Sampson, Nigel Short and Paul Agnew.*

## Disseminate our pioneering work

We are known for our research into areas such as Latin American and French Baroque, our signature Christmas Music by Candlelight and Summer Music by Candlelight concerts and our bold commissioning of local and national composers. We want to make all of this more accessible to audiences and other performers by:

- releasing a number of audio and/or video recordings each year
- exploring new digital platforms
- sharing editions of our music
- sharing our learning through workshops



*" Fascinating discoveries performed with great feeling and panache. "*

**Telegraph**

*" [Singing] lifts me when times are difficult - it makes me feel 'new' and able to face any outside problems. "*

**Singing Communities participant**

## Increase the impact and reach of our work in schools, communities and hospitals

Singing stimulates every area of the brain, releases feel-good hormones, can excite and can calm. It transforms individuals into a community. We aim to increase the impact and reach of our vital and award-winning work in communities and wellbeing by:

- developing our existing work with patients in hospitals, including children, stroke patients and new mothers and babies
- maintaining initiatives such as our Singing Communities Ladywood choir
- responding to the increasing need for artists to work in a social prescribing context





To make a donation, please return this form to Sarah Abbiss, Fundraising Manager, Ex Cathedra, Berkley Street, Birmingham, B1 2LF. For further details, email [sarah@excathedra.co.uk](mailto:sarah@excathedra.co.uk) or call **0121 616 3411**.

## Make a donation

I wish to make a one-off donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ to Ex Cathedra

I wish to make a regular donation and join Ex Cathedra's Host of Angels as an:

Angel (from £75 per year)    Guardian Angel (from £250 per year)    Archangel (from £650 per year)

Throne (from £1,500 per year)    Seraphim (from £3,000 per year)

With a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ per month / year

I would like my Host of Angels donation to be acknowledged on Ex Cathedra's website and in programmes as follows (please include name) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my donation to be anonymous

For further details about the Host of Angels scheme and associated benefits, please visit:

[www.excathedra.co.uk/support-us/individual-giving-host-of-angels/](http://www.excathedra.co.uk/support-us/individual-giving-host-of-angels/)

## To make my donation

I enclose cash with this form

I enclose a cheque payable to Ex Cathedra Ltd

I will instruct my bank to set up a standing order using Ex Cathedra's account details:

Bank: **Lloyds**  
Account Name: **Ex Cathedra Limited**  
Account Number: **00484940**  
Sort Code: **309309**

I will set up an online payment via the Charities Aid Foundation at  
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/2928>

*giftaid it* I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Ex Cathedra. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration; change your name or address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

## My details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy for Ex Cathedra to contact me by email to minimise postage costs



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REGULATOR**

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[www.excathedra.co.uk](http://www.excathedra.co.uk)