



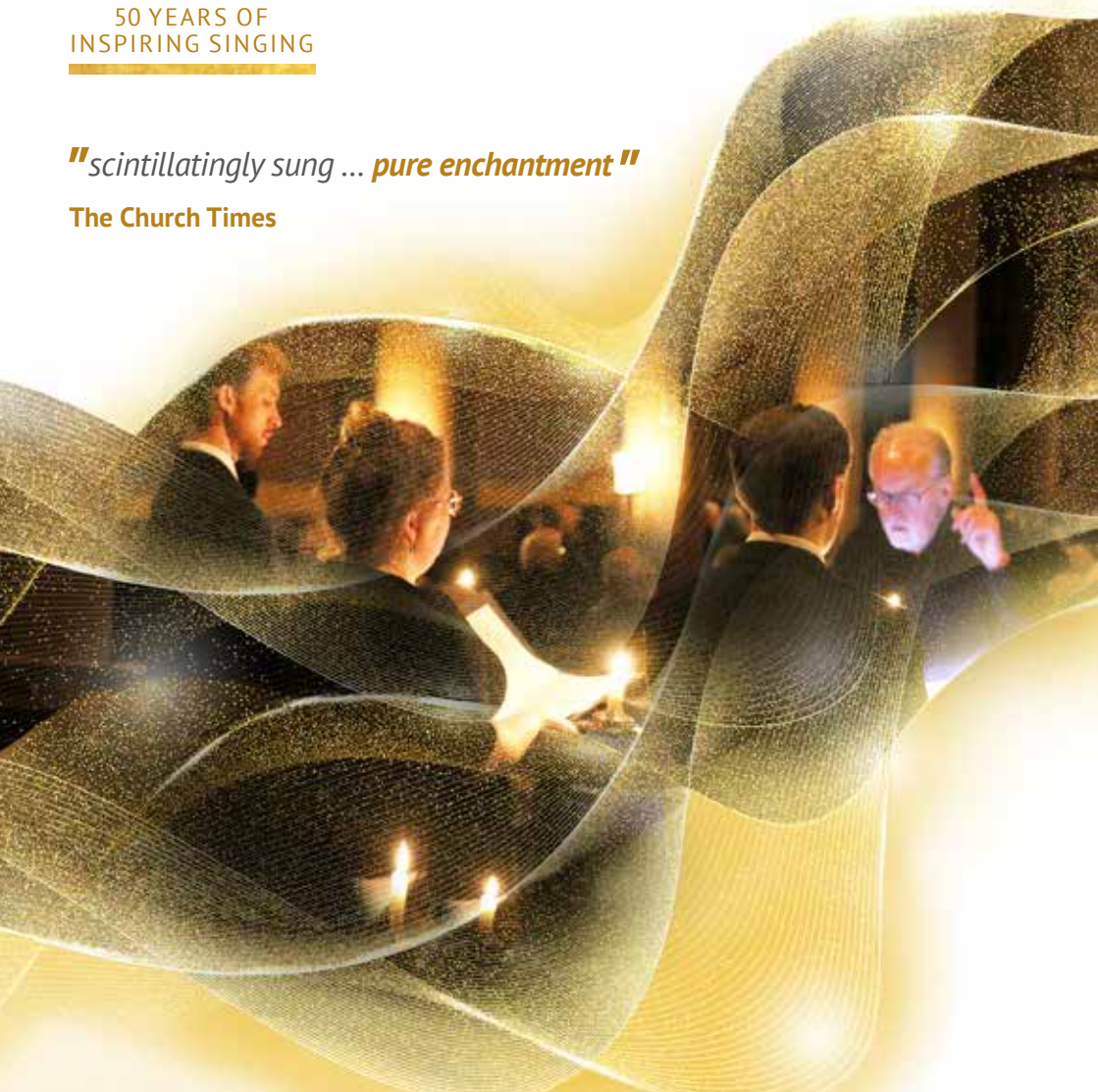
50 YEARS OF
INSPIRING SINGING

EX CATHEDRA

2019-20 excathedra.co.uk

"scintillatingly sung ... pure enchantment"

The Church Times



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



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Birmingham
City Council

At Ex Cathedra (registered charity no. 1004086) we believe in the power of singing to change lives. We would like to thank the supporters who make our concerts, schools, hospital and community projects possible.

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ENGLAND**



**Birmingham
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Thank you to all the individuals who have made and continue to make donations for their generous support.

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Artist at Town Hall

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Symphony Orchestra



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Ex Cathedra is a company limited by guarantee (no. 2396173) and a registered charity (no. 1004086).

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The information in this brochure was correct at the time of going to press. Ex Cathedra reserves the right to change programmes and artists if necessary; in this eventuality tickets cannot be exchanged nor money refunded. Ticket prices may vary; customers will have to pay the prevailing price at the time of booking.

From the heart... to the heart

Beethoven's powerfully poignant message at the head of his most monumental and challenging work - **Missa Solemnis** - is an ideal starting point to announce Ex Cathedra's 50th anniversary season.

It is one of four choral masterpieces - **All night vigil** (Rachmaninoff), **Mass in B Minor** (JS Bach), **Missa Solemnis** (Beethoven) and the **St John Passion** (JS Bach) - which serve as a backbone to this golden year. They are treasures of the repertoire with universal appeal which we have performed many times to great acclaim. The essential qualities of Ex Cathedra - passion, precision, technical skill, stylistic awareness, love for what we do - will ensure special performances. To inspire singing beyond concerts, each programme will be linked to participatory workshops and talks for schools, universities, community choirs and our Academy of Vocal Music. We want to share our love for this extraordinary music and expand yet further our growing audiences.

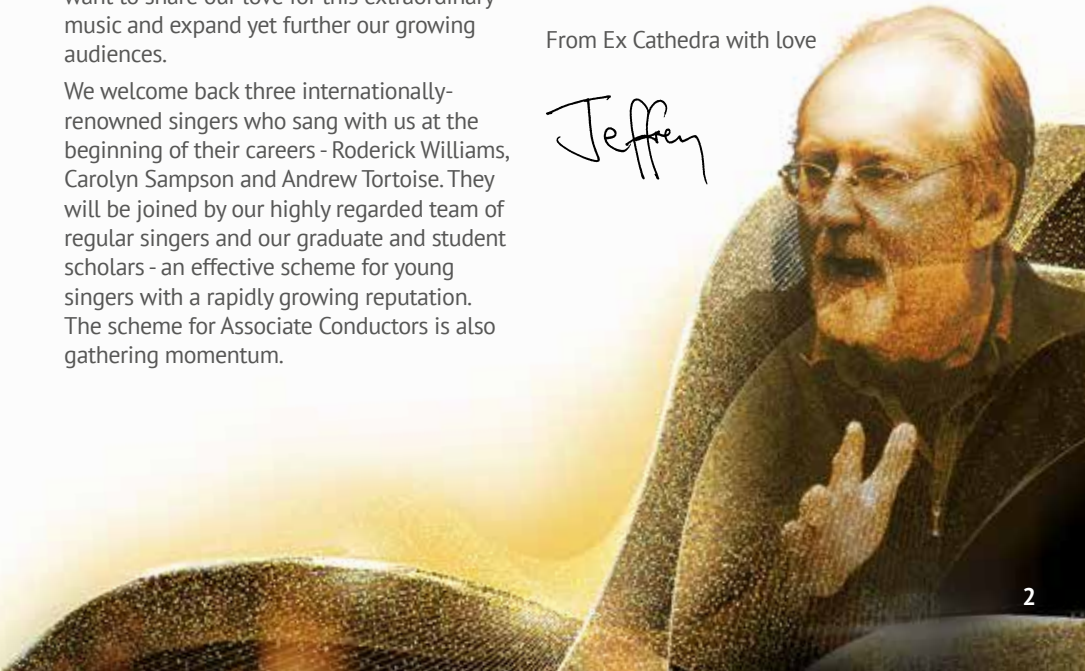
We welcome back three internationally-renowned singers who sang with us at the beginning of their careers - Roderick Williams, Carolyn Sampson and Andrew Tortoise. They will be joined by our highly regarded team of regular singers and our graduate and student scholars - an effective scheme for young singers with a rapidly growing reputation. The scheme for Associate Conductors is also gathering momentum.

Research is an important part of Ex Cathedra's success and continuing work with PhD students will come to fruition at the 19th Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music which will be hosted by Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in July 2020. Ex Cathedra's Academy and Scholars will work with Fretwork on Verse Anthems edited by Bill Hunt. I am returning to Bolivia in April to seek out more treasures of the New World!

The Ex Cathedra legacy of new music is also a crucial part of our work and our commissions and recordings have made a substantial contribution to the development of the art form. As ever, new works will feature prominently in our two popular solstice programmes - **Christmas Music by Candlelight** and **Summer Music by Candlelight** - whilst maintaining a successful mixture of tradition and much loved favourites.

From Ex Cathedra with love

Jeffrey



Rachmaninoff Vespers

EX CATHEDRA

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Martha McLorinan mezzo soprano

Jeremy Budd tenor

Radiant, reflective and deeply moving, Rachmaninoff's 'Vespers' is a heartfelt response to a deep-rooted and personal faith. Rachmaninoff loved the work so much that he requested one movement be sung at his funeral. We love it so much that it just has to be part of our 50th anniversary season!

" the stuff that legends are made of "

Birmingham Post

Sunday 27 October, 4pm

Town Hall, Birmingham

£43 / £33 / £23 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333



See p12 for ways to **save up to 30%** and the per ticket commission.

Other dates:

Monday 29 July

**Gloucester Cathedral,
Three Choirs Festival**

Bach Mass in B Minor

EX CATHEDRA Choir & Baroque Orchestra

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Elizabeth Adams, Katie Trethewey,

Amy Wood soprano

Martha McLorinan alto

Paul Bentley-Angell, James Robinson tenor

Greg Skidmore, Lawrence White bass

Sunday 1 December, 4pm

Town Hall, Birmingham

£43 / £33 / £23 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333



See p12 for ways to **save**
up to 30% and the per
ticket commission.

Bach's Mass in B Minor is one of the great masterpieces of all time and his supreme skill is evident from the powerful opening cry for mercy – Kyrie – to the heartrending plea of the concluding Agnus Dei. The awe-inspiring Sanctus, ablaze with trumpets and drums, was first conducted by Bach for his Leipzig Christmas service in 1724. The culmination of a lifetime of work, and completed shortly before his death, Bach never heard his Mass performed as a complete work – you won't want to miss it!

Early booking is recommended. This concert will end at approximate 6.30pm.



ECCE AGNUS DEI. ECCE QUI TOLLIS

PECCATA MUNDI

Christmas Music by Candlelight

EX CATHEDRA

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Rupert Jeffcoat, Alexander Mason organ

In the deep, still darkness, only candles pierce the winter gloom. And then, upon the silence, comes the luminous sound of a choir in harmony. With a sequence of Christmas music old and new, and readings to make you smile and reflect, our popular Christmas concerts are a uniquely magical way to begin your festive season.

Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment. These concerts will end at approximately 10pm. You are welcome to bring a cushion for your comfort.

Love these concerts? - try Summer Music by Candlelight

Wednesday 4 December, 7.30pm

Hereford Cathedral¹

£33 / £25 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333 | 01432 340 555

Saturday 7 December, 7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton¹

£33 / £25 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333

Thursday 12 December, 7.30pm

St John's Smith Square, London

£40 / £32 / £25 / £15²

020 7222 1061

Friday 13 December, 7.30pm

St James the Greater, Leicester¹

£30 / £25 / £15

0116 254 2111

Monday 16 December, 7.30pm

Coventry Cathedral¹

£33 / £25 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333

**Wed 18, Thu 19, Fri 20, Sat 21
& Mon 23 December, 7.30pm**

St Paul's Church, Birmingham

£45 / £35 / £25 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333



See p12 for ways to **save up to 30%** and the per ticket commission.

1 This concert will be performed, unaccompanied, by our Consort of 10 singers.
2 Plus a booking fee of £2.75 by phone, £1.75 online. Booking opens on 8 July.

ANGELS, STARS & KINGS

Christmas Music by
Candlelight - Family Concert

EX CATHEDRA
EX CATHEDRA Academy of Vocal Music

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Alexander Mason organ

We invite the whole family to share the magic of our Christmas Music by Candlelight concerts. With contributions from our youth training choirs, this hour-long concert brings a selection of seasonal favourites and inspiring choral music from our evening concerts, specially curated for younger audiences.

Come dressed as an angel, star or king.

Saturday 21 December, 4pm

St Paul's Church, Birmingham
£13 (adults) / £5 (under 16s)
0121 780 3333

Particularly recommended for children aged 4-11, but all ages are welcome.



Book online at www.excathedra.co.uk

Beethoven Missa Solemnis

EX CATHEDRA
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Carolyn Sampson soprano

Sophie Rennert mezzo soprano

Andrew Tortise tenor

Roderick Williams bass

Beethoven devoted four years to his monumental *Missa Solemnis*. Passionate, humble, majestic and intense, nothing he composed surpasses it for scale, sincerity or sheer vision. How wonderful, in our 50th year to join forces with the CBSO as they celebrate their Centenary, and an outstanding team of soloists to mark Beethoven's 250th birthday and realise his wish – written on the first page of the score – that this music should come 'from the heart that it may go to the heart'.

This concert will end at approximately 5.45pm.

Sunday 26 January, 4pm

Symphony Hall

£52 / £42 / £32 / £22 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333

This concert can be booked as part of an Ex Cathedra Concert Package and a CBSO Concert Package; discounts may vary.



See p12 for ways to **save up to 30%** and the per ticket commission.



Good Friday Bach

St John Passion

EX CATHEDRA Choir & Baroque Orchestra
EX CATHEDRA Academy of Vocal Music

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Bradley Smith Evangelist
Lawrence White Jesus
Marcus Farnsworth Pilate
Elizabeth Adams, Angela Hicks soprano
Martha McLorinan alto
Paul Bentley-Angell, James Robinson tenor

Bach's *St John Passion* tells the profound human drama of Christ's last days with utterly transfixing music. The pulsating opening chorus sets the mood, and we are drawn to share the anger of the mob, to empathize with Pilate's predicament, and to feel the anguish of the solo arias, heightened by the melancholic sounds of the period instruments - not least the tender agony of 'Es ist vollbracht' (It is finished).

Sung in German with English surtitles.
There will be a 30-minute interval
and the concert will end at
approximately 4.15pm.

Friday 10 April, 2pm

Symphony Hall, Birmingham
£43 / £39 / £30 / £23 / £12.50

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333

This concert can be booked as part of an Ex Cathedra Concert Package and a Birmingham Classical package; discounts may vary.



See p12 for ways to save
up to 30% and the per
ticket commission.

Book online at www.excathedra.co.uk

Summer Music by **Candlelight**

EX CATHEDRA

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

As a long midsummer day fades to dusk, we invite you to share an enchanting programme of seasonal music and readings. Spanning four centuries, this is glorious choral music inspired by birdsong, summer holidays, sea and sunshine – an atmospheric counterpart to our much-loved Christmas Music by Candlelight.

" totally sublime "

Birmingham Post

Thursday 11 June, 8pm

Hereford Cathedral ¹

£33 / £25 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333 | 01432 340 555

Tuesday 16 June, 8pm

Wednesday 17 June, 8pm

Birmingham Cathedral

£43 / £33 / £23 / £13

(incl. per ticket commission)

0121 780 3333



See p12 for ways to **save**
up to 30% and the per
ticket commission.

Other dates:

Friday 12 June, 8pm

St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

¹ This concert will be performed by our
Consort of 10 singers.

Inspiring singing beyond the concerts

Alongside our concerts we aim to deliver the most exciting singing programme of its kind, seeking to inspire a love of singing and bring the wonderful well-being benefits of singing to the tens of thousands of people we work with every year – in schools, hospitals and community settings.

Our **Academy of Vocal Music** welcomes young singers aged between 4 and 18 years. The children and young people take part in a range of workshops, projects and concerts - including singing alongside Ex Cathedra.

We have embedded **Singing Playgrounds** in over 1,000 schools across the UK and overseas, training children to lead their peers in singing play. **SingMaker** uses repertoire written by our team members, songbooks and interactive CDs to support singing in the home and in schools for parents, babies and children up to Key Stage 3.

In healthcare settings we deliver **Singing Medicine** sessions bedside on every ward at Birmingham Children's Hospital every week, and **Singing Pathways** sessions for stroke patients at Solihull Hospital.

"Singing Medicine is like taking a child into a meadow and letting them run ... a moment of space, to share, to express, to sing."

Hospital member of staff

With heartfelt thanks to all our funders and supporters, including our Principal Education Sponsor, Sandvik.



Booking information

HOW CAN I BOOK?

Online – www.excathedra.co.uk

Telephone – varies, call the number listed on each concert page

Booking form – complete and return the form on pp13-14. Only includes concerts sold through the THSH box office.

WHEN CAN I BOOK?

Priority booking for our Host of Angels:

- Archangels, Thrones and Seraphim can book from 7 May 2019
- Guardian Angels can book from 14 May 2019
- Angels and group bookings from 21 May 2019

Tickets go on **general sale** on 28 May 2019.

HOW CAN I SAVE? ¹

Book 3+ concerts at the same time – see below.

WHEELCHAIR USERS AND DISABLED PATRONS

Designated wheelchair and companion tickets are available at all venues. Please ask the box office for details when booking.

STUDENTS & UNDER 30s ¹

£5 for anyone in full time education or aged 17 and younger.

£8 for anyone aged 18-30 not in full time education

GROUPS OF 11 OR MORE ¹

20% discount for groups of 11+.

Plus 2 free tickets for organisers of groups of 20+.

Email groupbookings@thsh.co.uk or call free on **0800 358 7070** (10am to 5pm Monday to Friday). Please note all tickets must be paid in one transaction.

STANDBY DISCOUNTS ¹

Available from 1pm on the day of evening performances (10am on matinees):

- Passport to Leisure holders £12.50
- Benefit Recipients £5

Qualifying benefits are Universal Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit and Disability Tax Credit. Please call the Box Office for further information. Proof of eligibility may be required. ¹

WHAT'S THE 'PER TICKET COMMISSION'?

The THSH box office operates a 'per ticket commission' of £3 per ticket. Group bookings (which can be made by phone or email) are subject to a £1 per ticket fee. No fee applies to tickets priced £13 and under, or those purchased as part of a concert package (unless those tickets are posted, in which case there is a postage fee of £1.50).



Buy more & save up to 30% plus the per ticket commission!

- Just book 3+ concerts at the same time
- Choose your preferred tickets – including additional tickets for your friends and family
- Combine different price bands at different concerts to suit your requirements
- Free ticket exchange scheme if your plans change
- Save the per ticket commission, worth £3 per ticket

3 concerts – save 10%
4 concerts – save 15%
5 concerts – save 20%
6 concerts – save 30%

You can include any of the concerts sold through the THSH box office. Excludes tickets priced £13 or less, and our Angels, Stars & Kings concert.

¹ Applies to concerts sold through the THSH box office, details for other concerts vary, please check with the relevant box office when booking.

Booking Form Part 1 – Choose your concerts

| Priority booking, please tick if appropriate: <input type="checkbox"/> I am an Archangel, Throne or Seraphim <input type="checkbox"/> I am a Guardian Angel <input type="checkbox"/> I am an Angel | | Comments, e.g. preferred seating area | PACKAGE TICKETS | | ADDITIONAL TICKETS | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | Number of tickets (must be the same for each concert) | Total payable for subscription tickets before package discount | Number of tickets | Total payable for additional tickets (no package discount) |
| DATE | CONCERT | | | | | |
| 27 Oct 2019 | Rachmaninoff Vespers | | | | | |
| 1 Dec 2019 | Bach Mass in B Minor | | | | | |
| 4 Dec 2019 | Christmas Music by Candlelight (Hereford) | | | | | |
| 7 Dec 2019 | Christmas Music by Candlelight (Wolverhampton) | | | | | |
| 16 Dec 2019 | Christmas Music by Candlelight (Coventry) | | | | | |
| 18 Dec 2019 | Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham) | | | | | |
| 19 Dec 2019 | Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham) | | | | | |
| 20 Dec 2019 | Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham) | | | | | |
| 21 Dec 2019 | Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham) | | | | | |
| 23 Dec 2019 | Christmas Music by Candlelight (Birmingham) | | | | | |
| 26 Jan 2020 | Beethoven Missa Solemnis | | | | | |
| 10 Apr 2020 | Good Friday - Bach St John Passion | | | | | |
| 11 Jun 2020 | Summer Music by Candlelight (Hereford) | | | | | |
| 16 Jun 2020 | Summer Music by Candlelight (Birmingham) | | | | | |
| 17 Jun 2020 | Summer Music by Candlelight (Birmingham) | | | | | |
| *You must book the same number of tickets per concert for each party member to qualify for the package discounts. Packages are calculated by the number of different concert titles. | | Subscription subtotal | | | | |
| | | Subtotal after deducting £3 per ticket commission (applies if booking tickets for 3+ different concerts per person) | | | | |
| | | Less ____% discount | | | | |
| | | Subscription total | | | + | Additional tickets total |
| | | | | | GRAND TOTAL | |

Please write any special seating requirements here: _____

Booking Form Part 2 – Payment Details

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title _____ First name/initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Contact telephone (day) _____ (home) _____

(mobile) _____ Email address _____

BOOK BY POST

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'Performances Birmingham Limited' with the amount payable left blank and an upper limit of £ _____ written in the bottom left corner of the cheque.

Please note the THSH box office only accept cheques for postal bookings and no longer accept cash or card payments.

Your data

Ex Cathedra is an Associate Artist and Town Hall and Symphony Hall. We use the THSH Box Office for the majority of concerts we promote and for all the concerts that can be booked using this form.

When you book your ticket for an Ex Cathedra concert via the THSH Box Office your data is passed to us. Ex Cathedra processes audience data for certain legitimate business purposes, in order to provide you with the best experiences and most relevant information about our activities as an arts charity. These include using information we have about your booking patterns to send you details about similar events, ticket offers, or opportunities to support our work. If you do not wish to receive this information from us you can ask us to remove you from these communications.

From time to time we will send you recommendations and ticket offers by email for similar events and opportunities to support our work. If you would prefer NOT to receive these emails please let us know via info@excathedra.co.uk

To learn more about how we use your data visit excathedra.co.uk/privacy

Send your completed form to

'Ex Cathedra Concert Packages', THSH Box Office,
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2EA

If you have any queries, please call the box office on 0121 780 3333.

Give the gift of singing be an **Angel**

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to access extraordinary choral music and feel the wonderful benefits of singing, which is why we share our love of singing with as many people as possible through concerts, new commissions, recordings, training choirs for young singers, our Scholarships and Associate Conductor schemes, and community projects that get tens of thousands of children and adults singing every year in schools, communities and hospitals.

“Being a professional choral singer is such a unique vocation, with no real guide book on how to go about your work. Training with Ex Cathedra is that guide book which every young singer wants - lessons in how to be a professional in a safe, supportive environment. I am hugely grateful for this opportunity.”

(Ellie Sperling, Ex Cathedra Scholar 2018-19)

Ticket sales contribute a significant part of our income but with further reductions in public funding we need to close a funding gap of £18,000 next season to cover our core costs.

We need your support more than ever in our 50th anniversary year.

***Could you be an Angel
and give the gift of
singing today?***



Dates at a glance

Purcell, The Indian Queen

17 May London Festival of Baroque Music 020 7222 1061

Summer Music by Candlelight - 2019

6 Jun Hereford Cathedral 0121 780 3333

14 Jun St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury 0333 666 3366

18 Jun Birmingham Cathedral 0121 780 3333

19 Jun Birmingham Cathedral 0121 780 3333

18 Jul Buxton International Festival 01298 721 90

Rachmaninoff Vespers

29 Jul Three Choirs Festival, Gloucester Cathedral 01452 768928

27 Oct Town Hall, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

Bach, Mass in B Minor

1 Dec Town Hall, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

Christmas Music by Candlelight

4 Dec Hereford Cathedral 0121 780 3333

6 Dec St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury 0333 666 3366

7 Dec St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton 0121 780 3333

10 Dec St John's Church, Hagley 01562 884 216

12 Dec St John's Smith Square Christmas Festival 020 7222 1061

13 Dec St James the Greater, Leicester 0116 254 2111

16 Dec Coventry Cathedral 0121 780 3333

18 Dec St Paul's Church, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

19 Dec St Paul's Church, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

20 Dec St Paul's Church, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

21 Dec St Paul's Church, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

23 Dec St Paul's Church, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

Angels, Stars & Kings – family Christmas Music (matinee)

21 Dec St Paul's Church, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

Beethoven Missa Solemnis

26 Jan Symphony Hall, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

Bach, St John Passion

10 Apr Symphony Hall, Birmingham 0121 780 3333

Summer Music by Candlelight - 2020

11 Jun Hereford Cathedral 0121 780 3333

12 Jun St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury 0333 666 3366

16 Jun Birmingham Cathedral 0121 780 3333

17 Jun Birmingham Cathedral 0121 780 3333

For more information and new dates as they are announced, visit www.excathedra.co.uk