**Project title:** Giving New Life to Old Music: Baroque Vocal Music with Ex Cathedra

**Supervisors:** Dr Jamie Savan, Dr Shirley Thompson, Professor Graham Sadler and Dr Carrie Churnside (depending on the choice of repertoire)

Cultural partner: Jeffrey Skidmore (Ex Cathedra)

**Project description**

For fifty years the acclaimed chamber choir Ex Cathedra has been performing unusual and unexplored repertoire, with a particular emphasis on music of the Baroque. This results from a close relationship between musicology and performance, uncovering neglected composers, creating critical editions to enable performance, and researching appropriate aspects of performance practice. Nevertheless, there is still much music to be rediscovered. In this project you will work on a discrete body of vocal works of your choosing (in consultation with the project team) from the period c.1580-1740, creating critical editions and studying performance practice.

**The project will focus on the following objectives:**

1. To create a critical edition of hitherto unedited Baroque vocal music that is informed by practice (through working with performers from Ex Cathedra) thereby contributing to the repertoire in this area
2. To explore the performance practice of this music by examining both the historical evidence and working with performers to understand what works in practice
3. To make an original contribution to our knowledge of vocal music from the period 1580-1740

 Depending on your choice of repertoire you will be supported by supervisors from Birmingham Conservatoire’s Forum for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Music, all of whom have extensive experience in this area: Dr Jamie Savan (early Baroque), Professor Graham Sadler and Dr Shirley Thompson (French Baroque), and Dr Carrie Churnside (Italian Baroque). At the same time you will be working alongside Jeffrey Skidmore (Artistic Director of Ex Cathedra and expert in Latin American music of the period); the experience of collaborating with specialist performers will directly inform your edition and study of performance practice, resulting in an original piece of musicological work with practical application and thereby contributing to a greater awareness of our wider cultural heritage.