

Who is the Workshop for?

Song of the Spirit is for everyone who loves Singing Uplifting Sacred Music and will offer you A New Vision of Music as a Sacred Art.

You will find this is Unforgettable, Life Enhancing Music that will Inspire and Transform.

So we invite you to get your voices vibrating to songs in another key in music that will stretch the boundaries of your musical imaginations.

The music you will sing has been carefully chosen to inspire participants of all abilities. Michael brings the message that everyone has a singer and a musician inside them. (Music reading skills - whilst being welcome - are not essential. An ability to pitch match is however necessary.)

Workshop Leader

Michael Deason-Barrow - Director of the Tonalis Music Centre - is an inspirational, dynamic choir leader and a master singing teacher. He runs courses all over the world connected to music as a sacred practice and holistic singing. He specialises in composing music for sacred spaces and has also led a choir of 250 singers in a concert of sacred choral music from all around the world at the '3 Choirs Festival' - the world's most celebrated choral festival - in Gloucester Cathedral. Increasingly, he is being recognised for being that rare exponent of music, an expert with a universal attitude, a specialist equally at home with professional musicians and non-specialists alike.

Testimonial

"Here, we become the living cathedral
- not made with the sound of hammers,
but with the wonder and amazement of our singing."

Peggy Cooper - inspired by singing "Ikon of the Nativity" by John Tavener on a Tonalis Voice Course.

Fee: £80

Concessions are available. Please contact Heather for details.

Times: 10am - 6pm Saturday, 10am - 5pm Sunday

Lunches, Tea & Coffee will be provided.

Heather Elmhirst, New Place, Bossington Lane, Porlock, Somerset TA24 8ET

Application Form - 'Song of the Spirit' - Porlock

Please complete & send to Heather Elmhirst with your cheque payable to - 'New Place'.

Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Places are limited so early application is essential.

The Spirit will not descend without a Song

Sacred Chants:
Gregorian,
Early Irish
& Byzantine

New Sacred
Musics
e.g. John Tavener
&
Improvisations

Transcendent
Early Music
e.g.
Tallis & Bach

Sacred Music
from around
the World
e.g.
Georgian

West Gallery
&
Shape Note

Gospel,
Spirituals
&
African Choral
Traditions



Sing a Glorious Range of Sacred Musics
and
Explore a New Vision of Music as a Sacred Art

Tonalis

Workshop Leader: Michael Deason-Barrow

1st - 2nd OCTOBER 2011

VENUE - New Place, Porlock, SOMERSET TA24 8ET

Enquiries: Tel. 01643-862321 / email: helmhirst@yahoo.co.uk

*"All Deep Things Are Song.
It seems somehow the very central essence of us."* (T. Carlyle)

☉ Singing Sacred Songs:

- touches our soul
- helps us attune with our inner self, and
- is a fundamental part of meditation, prayer, celebrations and festivals.

'Song of the Spirit' offers you the opportunity to:

- Experience a Unique and Uplifting Approach to Sacred Music Making
- Discover New Musical Horizons through Singing a Sublime Range of Sacred Musics drawn from Choral Traditions from All Over the World.

**These musics you will find
are as Vibrant in Light and Colour as a Stained Glass Window in a Cathedral**
from

Songs Filled with Passionate Yearning for Union with the Divine
to

Music that will Bring About An Extraordinary Sense of Peace and Serenity
(from the mysteries of Georgian sacred music to the choral ikons of J. Tavener)
to

Music Filled with Joyous and Ecstatic Melodies and Rhythms.

There is a hunger today for Sacred Music that can offer people in our increasingly materialistic age new means of awakening their higher self.

Singing sacred songs for many people all over the world represents their primary gateway to spiritual presence. In earlier times, music and religion were so indistinguishable that it was almost impossible to make music without presupposing its connection with the divine ground of all being. In our more secular age, however, this connection between song and spirit has largely been lost, leaving many people feeling dispirited - not in-spirited.

The recent upsurge of interest in sacred musics however - from Tibetan and Gregorian Chant to Hildegard of Bingen and Taizé voicings - indicates that there is a longing for music to once again express a spiritual dimension. N.B. This new confidence in the spiritual power of music is also reflected in the growing appeal of new sacred choral music by contemporary composers (e.g. J. Tavener).

'Song of the Spirit' will therefore create a place for heaven and earth to meet through songs that demonstrate how music can become i) an instrument for transforming our inner self, and ii) a means to find a spiritual centre in our lives.

The Music we will Sing Together

Just as there are many religious and spiritual paths,
so musical pathways to divine presence are many,
each of which is more apt for expressing different aspects of our
relationship to the divine ground of all being.
e.g.

Some musics celebrate a DANCING GOD (e.g. Gospel, Native American & African, etc.),
others evoke a contemplative, MEDITATIVE GOD (e.g. the singing of cathedral choirs).

☉ So come and sing the following:

• **Sacred Music from All Around the World**

e.g. Georgian, Hebrew and Indian

• **Ancient and Primordial Musics**

e.g. Byzantine, Celtic and Native American Chant Traditions

• **Luminous Medieval and Renaissance Music**

• **African Songs of Praise, Thanksgiving and Jubilation**

from South African Voices to the Songs of the Bacca Pygmies

• **Heartfelt Gospel Harmonies and Negro Spirituals**

• **Vibrant Sacred Folk Idioms**

e.g. West Gallery and Shape Note Traditions

• **New Sublime Sacred Music & Stunning Choral Improvisations**

'Sing Something New of that which is Eternal' (A. Pitts)

Come and sing new music - inspired by texts from mystical poets like Rumi and T.S. Eliot - that is reinterpreting in contemporary ways the central mysteries of life. In this music you will hear the voice of eternity sounding anew in the new musical paradigms of the 21st Century.

God is not Western or Eastern, but Hears the Whole World

'How can the conditioned form of human cultures

work with the unconditional nature of the ultimate ground of all being?' (Paul Tillich)

This workshop will explore how our new global awareness can inspire us to re-tune sacred musicing to more universal holistic perspectives, and how interfaith musicing can help build bridges of understanding between different religions and spiritual pathways.

Tune Up Your Voices

Through the innovative and creative vocal warm-ups that Michael uses, you will have the chance to prepare your voices for the depths and heights of the music you will sing. So come and sing your heart out and sound your whole being, body, mind, soul and spirit.