

Who is the Workshop for?

This Workshop is appropriate for people with ALL levels of musical/vocal experience. Michael brings the message that everyone has a singer and a musician inside them and looks forward to sharing his passion for choral folk singing with you.

So come and sing your heart out this weekend and hear these ancient springs of song sounding anew!

A BOOKSHOP OF RESOURCES will be for sale at the workshop, including Michael's 3 books of Choral Folk Song arrangements

• *Songs for Seasons & Ceremonies Vol. 1 & 2* and • *The Magic & Mysteries of Celtic Folk Songs*.

Workshop Leader

Michael Deason-Barrow - Director of Tonalis Music Centre - runs inspirational courses all over the world connected to Singing, Choir Leading and Community Music. Michael performed for a number of years in a folk/early music group called, 'The Chanters of Taliesin' in which he sang and played the hurdy gurdy. He has spent years researching the mysteries of modal music and the Sean Nós tradition of Irish folk singing. Michael has over 25 years experience of leading folk music in community choirs and specialises in creating distinctive and original arrangements of folk songs for choirs.

FEES: £72 (for booking by March 1st) **£78** (by March 20th) **£85** (thereafter)

Concessions: £65 for students, OAPs, & people on income support by March 1st.

Couples/Partners & Group Bookings (3+): £58/ £65/ £70 (see date deadlines above)

Work Scholarship: £50 (by March 1st) For details, contact the Tonalis office.

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

Meals: Bring & Share Lunches or the local pub. Tea & Coffee will be provided.

A Registration Letter incl. travel directions will be sent on receipt of your application.

Tonalis, 4 Castle Farm Close, Leighterton, GLOS GL8 8UY

APPLICATION FORM - 'Choral Folk Songs' - Mildenhall

Please complete & send to the above address with your cheque payable to - 'Tonalis'.

Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

The Wellsprings of Song

Ancient Voices Sounding Anew

The Green Man Song

The Ballad of John Barleycorn

Corpus Christi Carol

In Comes, 1 Old April Fool

She Moved through the Fair

Curry Wren

Cock Robin

The Re-enchantment of Choral Folk Singing

Experience the Mysteries of
English and Celtic Folk Songs
in a Living and Contemporary Way

Tonalis

Led by Michael Deason-Barrow

5th – 6th APRIL 2014

VENUE - Mildenhall Village Hall, nr Marlborough, WILTS
Enquiries: Tel. 01666-890460 info@tonalismusic.co.uk

*"A folk song is like a tree,
whose stem dates back to immemorial times,
but which continually puts out new shoots."*

(R. Vaughan Williams)

This workshop offers you the chance
TO EXPERIENCE THE FUTURE SOUND OF FOLK SONG
IN A LIVING AND CONTEMPORARY WAY
& to create a new relationship with our magical folk traditions.

You'll find it is sure to open your ears to
NEW WAYS OF SINGING FOLK SONGS IN A CHORAL SETTING.

*At the heart of our weekend we'll sing some of the most evocative music there is,
from:* • the poignant lyricism of haunting love songs
to • the enchantment of spellbinding ritual songs of season and ceremony
- replete with vital myths, elemental customs and deep forms of spirituality.

There's a strange paradox today that folk music from all over the world is used in community choir contexts, but 'English Folk Music' tends to be conspicuous by its absence. Is this because of negative memories of school days and images of folk singers 'singing by heart through their noses'? Or, is it due to the way early folk song collectors showed little interest in the improvised voices of collective choral folk singing, or our vibrant Village Carol and West Gallery traditions?

This means that we just don't realise

HOW GOOD CHORAL FOLK SINGING CAN BE!

So this workshop takes the view that

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR OWN EXQUISITE FOLK SONGS IN CHOIRS.

'The Well-springs of Song' will take the raw materials of folk songs
(which traditionally are sung as unaccompanied single lines of melody)
& transform them via glorious harmonies which complement the essence of the original song.

*To do this, Michael will teach you some of the distinctive arrangements of folk songs
he has specialised in creating over the years.*

There'll be added parts influenced by IMPROVISED FOLK VOICINGS -
including the use of drones, parallel harmonies and chords full of open 5ths and 4ths.

You'll also encounter beautiful forms of ORNAMENTATION and FREER RHYTHMS
that allow for the FREE STYLE and NATURAL SOUND of FOLK SONG.

In addition, you'll have the chance to explore singing in DIFFERENT VOICE STYLES.

Get Inside the Musical Mysteries of Choral Folk Song

*During the weekend we'll explore the unique nature of the music that underlies our folk songs,
from* • the mysteries of modes in folk melodies
& • the subtle and elemental nature of folk song rhythms
to • the stunning chords of oral harmony.

Here's the glorious FOLK CHOIR REPERTOIRE we'll sing.

A Journey Around the Wheel of the Year.

'GREEN MAN IN THE GARDEN' & 'IN COMES I, OLD APRIL FOOL' - New folk songs on ancient myths
& a MAY DAY 'OBBY 'OSS' in song

'DOWN IN YON FOREST' - a meeting of the Grail myth, the May Queen and the Virgin Mary

'THE DANCERS OF STANTON DREW' - a mid-summer folk song that tells the story of the wedding of Sue
& William and how they are turned into standing stones at midnight

'JOHN BARLEYCORN' - a classic folk song on the killing and resurrection of this ancient corn God

'LYKE WAKE DIRGE' - the mysteries of Samhain and All Souls hymned in a magical incantation

'COCK ROBIN AND CUTTY WREN' & A WINTER GREEN MAN SONG - some mid-winter mayhem in song
& an incantation featuring Shiver to Shudder & Chatter to Chill

There'll also be the chance to sing:

Enchanting Celtic Songs from Ireland & Scotland

including: • 'She moved through the Fair' • An old Gaelic blessing - 'Deus Meus'
• a magical lilting Hebridean lullaby • a touch of Scottish Mouth Music
and a stunning Choral Improvisation on
• 'The Wild Mountain Thyme' inspired by Gaelic Psalm Singing.

West Gallery Singing - 'Let's take the plaster off the ceiling'

We'll sing West Gallery Music (traditionally sung in the west galleries of village churches)
which Thomas Hardy wrote about so lovingly in his novel, 'Under the Greenwood Tree'.

This is folk derived sacred music which overflows with WONDER and ENERGY.

It is vigorous, earthy, robust and uninhibited
and brings a GRAND WILD FREEDOM into sacred singing.

As one participant said,

*"this is amazing, vibrant choral music
that sounds like nothing else I've ever heard before!"*