

Who is the Workshop for?

If you have ever wondered,

- what is it that makes Celtic Music so distinctive, spellbinding and enchanting?
- what the aural equivalent is of the Book of Kells, with its extraordinary, spiralic Celtic Knots?
 - what the early Celtic sacred music of St. Columba sounded like?

then COME and SING YOUR HEART OUT on this weekend of UNFORGETTABLE MUSIC.

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 singing Celtic Music with you.

A BOOKSHOP OF RESOURCES will be for sale at the workshop, including Michael's new book of folk song arrangements, 'The Magic & Mysteries of Celtic Folk Songs'.

Workshop Leader

Michael Deason-Barrow - Director of Tonalis - runs inspirational courses all over the world connected to Holistic Singing, Choir Leading, Sacred Music and the Music of the Landscape. He performed in the folk/early music group, 'The Chanters of Taliesin' and today regularly leads folk music in community choirs and creates distinctive arrangements of folk songs for choirs. This workshop is the culmination of 30 years research into Celtic Music: from the mysteries of Irish folk singing and improvisatory Gaelic Psalm singing to the music of the Scottish Travellers.

Fees & Times

N.B. You can book for just the WEEKEND (8 - 9 April), or the WHOLE 3 DAY workshop.

Weekend only: £77 (for booking by Feb 20th) **£82** (by March 20th) **£88** (thereafter)

All 3 Days: £112 (for booking by Feb 20th) **£118** (by March 20th) **£124** (thereafter)

Couples, OAPs & Groups (3+): £7 off the above fees (see the date deadlines above)

Times: Saturday 10:30am - 6pm, Sunday 10am - 5:30pm, Monday 10am - 5pm

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 - The Sound World of the Celts

Please complete & send to the above address with your cheque payable to - 'Tonalis' or pay into the Tonalis account: Sort Code 30-92-06, Account # 00807093.

Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____ Mobile: _____

Would you like an ACCOMMODATION list of local hosts (c.£22/night)? Yes

LUNCHES: Organic Soup, Salad & Roll Lunches (£5/day) Yes (to pay on 1st day)

The Sound World of the Celts

Explore
the Unique Soundscapes
of IRELAND, SCOTLAND & THE HEBRIDES
in SONG



Weave spellbinding
Tapestries of Sound
into Songs of
Enchantment

Tonalis

from
Early Celtic Chant,
Mouth Music, Keening
& Sean Nós Irish Aírs
to New Celtic Music

Led by Michael Deason-Barrow

APRIL 8th - 10th 2017
(WEEKEND only attendance welcomed)

VENUE - The Field Centre, nr. Nailsworth, GLOS

Enquiries: Tel. 01666-890460 info@tonalismusic.co.uk

The Sound World of the Celts

Celtic peoples often say that 'the world is made out of music'.

And what a different kind of music it is!

(Even the Gaelic word for music, 'ceol' - meaning 'sounds like birds' - suggests how unique it is.)

This ground-breaking workshop will vividly evoke for you
CELTIC SOUNDSCAPES
from the Mountains and Glens of Scotland,
to the Hebridean Islands & the Celtic Otherworld of Ireland.

On this workshop you'll have the chance to sing and explore:

- EARLY CELTIC PLAINCHANT & the BALLADS OF THE BARDS
 - MEDIEVAL MUSIC FROM THE ORKNEY'S
- NEW ARRANGEMENTS OF IRISH FOLK MUSIC (by Michael D-B.)
 - CONTEMPORARY SCOTTISH MUSIC (e.g. by James MacMillan)
- the laments of IRISH KEENING & • the VISION SONGS known as AISLINGS.

This is a workshop full of songs of enchantment
where you'll find supernatural and spiritual dimensions living
alongside mythic figures, shape-shifters and magical love songs.

You'll sing *the RISE and FALL of the SEA* in a Hebridean waulking song and a carol.

There'll be lots of joy as you sing the celebrated '*MOUTH MUSIC*' of both Ireland and Scotland (which the locals say is all 'hidderom hodderom').

You'll have the chance to live into the special world of *CELTIC ORNAMENTATION* and discover how much of this music is the *aural equivalent of all the KNOTWORK* you see in the beautiful illuminated Celtic bibles such as the 'Book of the Kells'. So come and -

- sing the unique and enchanting style of Irish folk singing called '*SEAN NÓS*',
- explore the Scottish '*PIBROCH*' tradition through giving voice to an extraordinary bird song called 'Pilliliu', and a song composed by Michael about sounding standing stones called 'The Blind Fiddler'.
- enter into the unique world of *Gaelic Psalm Singing* where *CELTIC KNOTS* are woven around the tune by everyone improvising their own individual act of worship.

In addition, you'll also have the opportunity to listen into:
the sound worlds of extraordinary ancient *CELTIC INSTRUMENTS* like the 'Carnyx' -
an elemental iron-age trumpet replete with a boar's head and fiery red tongue.

As a backdrop to this workshop
Michael will introduce you to some of the key themes of
CELTIC CONSCIOUSNESS
that Underlie this Beguiling Music.

You'll find one element, in particular, characterises so much Celtic Art & Music -
METAMORPHOSIS.

Here one thing is literally transformed into another in an astonishingly fluid way.
Vegetation, animals, birds and humans all intertwine in a *SHAPE SHIFTING WORLD*.

So come and enjoy singing these incredible flexible Celtic melodies
with their slides, subtle inflections, 'wandering pitches' and elemental life forces.

The workshop will also tune into the way

CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

perceives the natural world as divine and so dissolves any duality between heaven and earth.
Thus in many of the songs you'll sing you'll hear this veneration of nature woven into them.

Explore the Distinctive Musical Elements & Deep Roots of Celtic Soundscapes

So on this workshop we'll explore together:

- how *THE OPEN SPACES* and *ELEMENTAL LANDSCAPES* of SCOTLAND and IRELAND are evoked in the openness of 'pentatonic' and 'hexatonic' scales.
- the ancient language of music the Celts used, called the 'modes', and how the harmonies are frequently left open so the free kinetic life of the melody is not impeded.

You'll find the *BEGUILING MELODIES* you'll sing have a matching *SENSE OF SPACE* with their extraordinary wide range and spacious intervals, from octaves, sevenths and sixths, to fifths.

You'll also have the chance to discover how *CELTIC RHYTHMS* are kinetic and often free of the kind of measured time and fixed beats that characterise so much western music.
HERE TIME EITHER EXPANDS and CONTRACTS, or EVOKES THE REALM OF ETERNITY.

Monday April 10th

New Musical Imaginations of Celtic Consciousness

On the Monday we will interweave one special new theme with all of the above themes - namely, an exploration of *NEW CELTIC MUSIC* by composers like: • **Ronald Stevenson** • **Sally Beamish** • **Eddie McGuire** • **Dave Flynn** • **Martyn Bennett** and • **James MacMillan**. This way you'll have the chance to hear how the Celtic world is not just an ancient phenomenon, but one that is inspiring **GREAT NEW MUSIC TODAY**.