

Who is the Workshop for?

This workshop is for all men who want to discover new ways into singing, expand the borders of their voices, and sing a great new musical repertoire.

It will:

- help men develop confidence in their singing
- put the heart, soul and body back into male voice singing
- demonstrate how singing is a wonderful activity for all men to participate in
- be uplifting and energetic, with dashes of humour and moments of deep sacredness.

Workshop Leader

Michael Deason-Barrow (GRSM, ARCM) - Director of the Tonalis Music Centre - is a master singing teacher and a dynamic, inspirational choir trainer, who runs voice courses all over the world. He has a wide background as a performer, and regularly gives voice master classes in music conservatoires on the one hand, whilst working with community choirs, children's groups, uncertain singers and singing therapy on the other.

Testimonials

Michael Deason-Barrow can take you to new places

and give you new experiences in singing which will change your life.

Mike Brewer OBE - Author of 'Fine Tune Your Choir' & 'Choral Warm-ups'

"Michael Deason-Barrow is one of the finest voice coaches in the world."

Mikal Nielsen - Author of 'The Heart of Your Voice, You too can Sing!'

Discounted Fees: £78 (for booking by Aug. 15th) **£85** (by Sept. 15th) **£90** (thereafter)

Concessions: £68 for OAPs, full-time students and people on income support, by Sept. 1st.

Group Bookings (3+): £65/ £70/ £75 (see date deadlines above)

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

Meals: Bring & Share Lunches or Local cafés. 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 - Song Circle for Men's Voices

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Postcode:** _____

Tel: _____ **email:** _____

Please send me an Accommodation List of Local hosts (c.£22/night) and B&Bs



- ◆ Sing your Hearts out on an Unforgettable Weekend of Male Voice Singing
- ◆ Explore New Warm-ups for Men's Voices
- ◆ Sing an Outstanding Array of Songs, from World Voicings and Gospel to West Gallery and Irish Folk

Tonalis

Workshop Leader: Michael Deason-Barrow

8th - 9th October 2011

VENUE - Tonalis Music Centre, Stroud, GLOS

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

Song Circle for Men's Voices

'Why don't men sing today?' 'Where are all the men in choirs?'

These are the cries that are frequently heard today from women in choirs.

Of course there are wonderful examples of male voice choirs,
from Barbershop to Welsh Male Voice Choirs.

But in spite of the close harmony and the deep sense of kinship men find in these choirs,
the idioms (and the concert dress) don't appeal to lots of men.

Typically men love team work - especially when it includes physicality (witness all the sports men participate in). So choir singing should be ideal for men, shouldn't it?

Yet there is a lot of uncertainty about the value of male singing in the world today (just as there is uncertainty about male identity). In Britain we have a deeply ingrained attitude about men's singing, which often views it as soft and whimpy (in spite of men traditionally singing in the mining valleys of Wales, singing their heads off at football matches, and embodying the wild man masculinity of rock music).

A further reason for the decline in men's singing is that the change of voice in a boy's adolescence is a 'rite of passage' that is seldom met with appropriate vocal methodologies - let alone appropriate emotional and psychological support.

All of this means boys and men seldom discover the full potential of their voices.

But just as men's voices have a totally different tone quality to women's, so do their feelings. Thus they often have different musical tastes, respond to different types of imagery in songs, and search for different forms of leadership. (N.B. Thus in many indigenous cultures men and women sing gender specific music.)

So just as there has been a huge growth in men's groups - inspired by key figures such as Robert Bly and Steve Biddulph - so we need a new vision of men's singing, because men frequently respond to singing - and participation in choirs - in different ways than women.

This workshop will therefore address 2 key questions:

- i) How can men believe that singing is a perfectly masculine thing to do?
- ii) How can we find an appropriate image of men's singing so that all men feel it's a great thing to do?

So come and discover how to put the 'heart' and the 'body' back into men's voices and explore how to re-connect with parts of the self from which many men have been cut off by virtue of their socio-cultural-musical upbringing.

> Lift Every Voice - A New Vision of Male Voice Singing

What is needed, above all, is for men to come into contact with a singing leader who can inspire them to develop their voices and their love of singing.

THIS WORKSHOP WILL DO JUST THAT!

It will introduce you to NEW FORMS OF SINGING that all men can respond to. You will find it will bring greater physicality and more elemental qualities into singing, (e.g. through singing more primordial choral traditions), allied to the use of humour, and dashes of drama and eccentricity.

N.B. From the outset Michael will establish an atmosphere of safety for you to move your voices from inside to outside without being stopped by the damaging layers of inner critics that often silence us. You will find Tonalis' methods will remove any inhibiting attitudes which often block access to the huge reservoir of musical and vocal potential we each have.

> New Warm-Ups for Men's Voices

Come and try out

new forms of Voice Warm-ups specifically designed to develop men's voices.

> Let Your Voice be Heard

The Amazing Range of Songs we will sing together - include

- the Primordial Chants of Inuit, Native American, Saami, Maori and Tongan peoples
- sublime Georgian Sacred and Secular Music
- heartfelt African-American Spirituals
- South African Music inspired by groups such as Ladysmith Black Mambazo including a wonderful Zulu initiation song, and a Freedom Song which voices the courage of Nelson Mandela
- the wonderful close harmony singing found in English and Irish folk groups, e.g. 'Coope, Boyes and Simpson' and the 'Voice Squad'
- the earthiness of West Gallery voicings
- a rumbustuous Medieval dance song, and
- a glorious Sacred Chant from the Greek Orthodox tradition.

What you'll find through singing all this stunning music with Michael, is that Instead of men's singing being dressed up (metaphorically speaking) in grey jackets or dinner jacket suits (where the only colour that can be found is in the tie), the room will resound with the most extraordinary vibrant vocal colours.

So come sing your hearts out and experience lots of fun,
some eccentricity, a sense of sacredness and a dash of male camaraderie
in what I can promise will be
AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND OF MALE VOICE SINGING.