

CHOROS

Tonalis Company of Singers

Classical

Early Music

Contemporary



World
Musics

Folk

Gospel &
Spirituals

Open Up to a New World of Choral Singing

Are you looking for
a choir with a difference to sing in?
If so - take a look at *CHOROS*
whose inspiring performances are demonstrating
the new possibilities available to choirs today

Choir Leader: Michael Deason-Barrow

Meets 1 Weekend / Month (Saturday only possible)

VENUE - Tonalis Music Centre, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

WHO ARE WE?

- We are:
- a group of musical explorers with a passion for choral singing
 - an adventurous chamber choir with the technique and musicality to excel in singing an outstanding range of music.

DISCOVER NEW MUSICAL HORIZONS

There is a change going on today in the World of Singing in Choirs. New alternative voices are sounding out from the wellsprings of world, early and contemporary musics, as well as from the new world of choral improvisation. All these voices are stretching the boundaries of choral singing.

Here you will find:

- ☉ **All the following styles woven into an Enchanting Tapestry of Song**
 - ◆ Sublime Early Music (Medieval, Renaissance & Baroque)
 - ◆ Classical and Romantic Masterpieces
 - ◆ Vibrant and Multi-Layered World Choral Traditions
 - ◆ Songs of Season and Ceremony from English and Celtic Folk Traditions
 - ◆ Heartfelt Gospel, Spirituals, West Gallery and Shape Note Traditions.

- ☉ **New Choral Music inspired by Contemporary Paradigms in Music**

Choral Music being written today is opening us up to new visions of music that enlarge and extend us. 'Choros' therefore commissions new works and regularly sings inspiring new pieces by composers such as:

- H.Gorecki • M.Lauridsen • J.MacMillan • M.McGlynn • T.O'Regan • A.Pärt & • J.Tavener.

In addition, Choros sings

- ☉ **A wonderful array of Sacred Musics**

which you will find are as vibrant in light and colour as a stained glass window.

Through this glorious repertoire -

CHOROS TELLS THE WHOLE STORY OF MUSIC

so that you experience the wonder and fullness of music,
not the partial perspective of any one particular style.

SING FREEDOM: VOICE TECHNIQUE FOR 21ST CENTURY SINGERS

The Choir has a strong commitment to improving their vocal skills, based on the use of an integrated and holistic approach to voice development.

A part of each rehearsal is therefore dedicated to helping you learn how to:

- ◆ Develop the freedom of your BREATHING
- ◆ Expand the RANGE and DYNAMICS of your Voice
- ◆ Enliven your RESONANCE and the palette of your VOCAL COLOURS
- ◆ OPEN YOUR THROAT and FREE THE LARYNX from any harmful constrictions
- ◆ Explore how each CONSONANT and VOWEL is like a different instrument
- ◆ Free your TONGUE, LIPS & JAW from any tensions that interfere with your voice.

In Choros' Voicework you will also find:

- ◆ **New and Energising Forms of Vocal Warm-ups** which get the
 - *Body* • *Voice* • *Listening* • *Musicianship* & • *Community* of the Choir ready for singing
- ◆ **Body-Mind-Voicework** informed by Alexander Technique and Dalcroze Eurythmics
- ◆ **Vocal Improvisation** which brings the benefits of creative imagination and spontaneity into voicework to help the choir unlock its full array of vocal responses.
- ◆ **How to Sing in a Stunning Array of Different Vocal Styles** (rather than just using one monochrome timbre for all musics).

OTHER NEW ELEMENTS IN TONALIS CHORAL SINGING

◆ **Get Inside the Inner Life of Music**

At the heart of our work is the goal of helping all choir members develop their musicianship skills so that the choir can sing each composition with compelling expressivity.

◆ **Creativity through Choral Improvisation**

An exciting and innovative feature of this choir is the opportunity it offers you to bring creativity into choral singing through exploring the gifts of choral improvisation.

This means:

- we sing new compositions which employ improvisation, and
- we improvise on the elements of music found in each piece we sing to help the choir get inside the composer's imagination.

◆ **The Architecture of Music: Sounds in Space and Movement**

Choros is famous for the way it explores how the musical structures/architecture of a composition can be enhanced through the spatial placement and choreography of singers. This brings to the audience a greater sense of drama, as well as new dynamic forms of listening.

A NEW FORMAT FOR CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Choir Meets 1 Weekend / Month (excluding June and July).

TIMES: Saturdays: 11:30am - 6:30pm, Sundays: 9:30am - 4:30pm.

THIS WEEKEND FORMAT brings many advantages.

It enables:

1) singers from all over the country to join the choir
(N.B. Members come from as far afield as Penzance, Manchester, Brighton and Cambridge.)

2) choir members to develop their voicework skills, and the chance to go deeper into musicianship, questions of blend and musical styles.

As one choir member put it,

'I don't just sing in a choir, I get voice and musicianship training as well!'

All this means that we're more than a traditional choir.

FEES £40/weekend £22 Single Day attendance (Saturday)
£15 concession/ term for Couples and Full-time students

Accommodation. For choir members coming from a distance it is possible to stay either with local choir members, or with local hosts who ask approx.£20/night for B&B.

PERFORMANCES

2 repertoires are prepared each year leading to concerts at the end of May and December. Occasionally concerts are given at other times by agreement of the choir members. There is also the potential for touring concert programmes.

OTHER VOICINGS

CHOROS offers choir members with more advanced music reading and vocal skills the opportunity to participate in our SEMI-CHORUS and CONSORT VOICINGS.

In addition, each concert includes music written for the unique sound qualities of

- UPPER VOICES and
- MALE VOICES.

CHOIR RETREAT. Each year the choir enjoys a choral weekend retreat at a beautiful centre. During this time we work on a special theme and go on great outings to sing in sacred spaces.

TESTIMONIAL

"What is unique about Michael's work is his success in building bridges between different musical styles, always with musical excellence as the goal. He has the knack to open people's minds to enable them to make music in ways they never thought possible.

Michael can take you to new places and give you new experiences in singing which will change your life."

MIKE BREWER OBE Author of 'Kick Start Your Choir', 'Fine Tune Your Choir' & 'Choral Warm-Ups'.
Conductor of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain.

CHOIR LEADER - Michael Deason-Barrow

Michael is an inspirational choir trainer and a master singing teacher.

- He regularly gives voice masterclasses in music conservatoires and recently directed a modular training on choir leading. He also composes vibrant new forms of choral music.
- He has conducted at the celebrated '3 Choirs Festival' in Gloucester Cathedral.
- He studied with great singers like Peter Pears and has a wide background as a performer.
- His new holistic vision of choirs and singing was recently featured in 'The Singer Magazine'.

Above all, Michael is renowned for redrawing the horizons of music, and for bringing a stunning array of choral idioms and deeper sacred dimensions into Choros' concerts.

TO JOIN CHOROS

Please contact Alison Smith on 01179-041056 / alison2188@blueyonder.co.uk for an Application Form and a Questionnaire to determine if the musical and vocal level the choir works at is right for you.

On receipt of your application form and questionnaire we then invite you to come and meet Michael and take a short voice appraisal (and a music reading one if applicable), so that through knowing your abilities he can better support you and enable your choir skills to develop.

(All prospective Choir Members are advised that they need to be able to read music.)

N.B. Members actively participate in the Management of the Choir and help shape its organisational structures.