

FOUNDATION TRAINING Duration: 10 weekends over 1 year

Composing the Future

Explore a Step by Step Guide
to Composing Your Own Music



Get Inside the Realms of Musical Creativity

- Investigate New Paradigms in Music for the Contemporary Composer
- Discover how Music Works from the Inside Out

Tonalis

Course Leader: Michael Deason-Barrow

VENUE - Tonalis Music Centre, Stroud, GLOS
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Composing the Future

To compose is one of the most wonderful of all musical experiences. Composition offers a special journey into the realms of imagination and musical creativity. This training contains everything you need to know to embark on creating your own music and covers both TRADITIONAL and MODERN composition techniques.

It offers you:

- **A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO COMPOSING** covering the composition of melodies, rhythms, harmonies, and all the other elements of music.
- **entrances into COMPOSING IN DIFFERENT STYLES OF MUSIC,** (from Early Music to Folk, Contemporary and World Music idioms).

In particular, it focusses on

- **NEW COMPOSITIONAL TECHNIQUES FOR THE CONTEMPORARY COMPOSER.**

Some people find the idea of composing quite daunting. This isn't surprising given the way the study of music - or participation in it - rarely includes creating your own music. In fact, there is a danger that we can become so absorbed in other people's music that we lose sight of our own identity and our own voice. *This training will change all this!*

People also often think composing music is just for experts.

BUT ANYONE CAN COMPOSE!

So with 'Composing the Future'
you'll find YOU are composing from the very first module.

You may ask yourself, 'why compose, and what are its benefits?'

Firstly, it is so satisfying to be able to share your own musical experiences with other people. Secondly, for many people studying music (or learning to play an instrument or sing) usually means playing music by someone else. Composition, on the other hand, involves YOU in the creation of music.

Thirdly, composition helps you find **HOW MUSIC WORKS FROM THE INSIDE OUT.** (You can't play music - however brilliant your technique - without inside experience.)

Consequently, COMPOSING IS THE KEY TO DEVELOPING MUSICIANSHIP and LEARNING WHAT IS BEHIND THE NOTES.

So composition is crucial for **ALL MUSICIANS.**
You'll find it teaches you about the depths and mysteries of music in a way that no other form of music making can.

Key Themes the Course will Explore

There will be modules on:

New Techniques for the Contemporary Composer

A key element of 'Composing the Future' is that it moves beyond more closed ideas of music that belong to specific genres. Instead, you'll find this course draws on a vast range of musical ideas from all times and all places to help you meet the needs of today.

Above all, it will connect you to

A BIGGER MUSICAL WORLD

in such a way that you discover how to move the notes around beyond fixed conventions.

'Composing the Future' therefore offers you a practical and inspiring guide to THE COMPOSITIONAL TECHNIQUES OF THE 20th AND 21st CENTURIES and the new thinking that underlies the use of all the musical elements today.

So come and learn to compose using Overtone, 12 Tone and Whole Tone scales, etc. and explore

- *new notations*
- *spatial elements*
- *soundscape compositions*
- *minimalism and much more.*

Above all, you'll find how this training is truly MULTI-CULTURAL with compositions inspired by themes such as 'East meets West'.

Throughout the training you'll also have the chance to learn from THE GREAT NEW IDEAS OF CONTEMPORARY COMPOSERS.

What you will also find is how this study helps you understand the motives, ideas and processes that stand behind the contemporary music you hear today.

Composing Melodies, Rhythms and Harmonies

You'll have the chance to creatively explore:

MELODY - including how to build, develop and extend melodies

RHYTHM - via playing with pulse, metre and different forms of time so that you learn how to make rhythms dance from African to Latin American inspired rhythms. This will include explorations of interesting metres used in pieces such as Holst's 'Mars', Stravinski's 'Rite of Spring' and Brubeck's 'Take Five'.

HARMONY - from the study of famous chords - such as Scriabin's 'mystic chord' - to explorations of different types of harmony (e.g. quartal chords), to how to compose your own rounds, grooves and harmonic progressions.

You'll also have the chance to get inside ALL THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF MUSIC from TIMBRE (e.g. Klangfarbenmelodie) and TEXTURES to FORM & STRUCTURE (e.g. via composing improvisatory frameworks).

Further Key Themes

- **Words and Music - The Art of Song Writing**

- i) compose your own songs
- ii) compose for choirs.

- **Learn to Arrange Music**

from adding simple drones, ostinati, chords, and instruments, to taking a melody and arranging it for choirs.

- **Explore Different Musical Styles** as the basis for composition, from Medieval and Renaissance Musics, to Folk and World Musics, to Contemporary genres.

Throughout the training there will also be explorations of compositional processes used by great composers. You'll also have the chance to learn to analyse works so that with each module you increasingly expand and extend your awareness of how music works.

In addition, you'll be encouraged to listen to different forms of music and to study supplementary reading as inspiration for your own composing during distance learning.

Testimonials

'Tonalis is watering the roots of music, reviving the mystery and nurturing the sacred which lies behind all inspiring performance. IT IS VITAL WORK.'

JONATHAN HARVEY - LEADING COMPOSER AND AUTHOR OF 'MUSIC AND INSPIRATION'

Tonalis struck an immediate resonance in me: the stretching out to the past and to the extraordinary wealth of the present, the stressing of the vernacular and oral as well as the classical traditions, the comparison of the tempered scale with the overtone row and with other untempered scales to help us get out of our shell into contact with what is around us without prejudice. *All of this is very, very close to my heart.*

YEHUDI MENUHIN

Contributors

Michael Deason-Barrow (GRSM, ARCM) - Tonalis Director - has always had an intense need to understand the inner life of music which has led him to look at the world of music from wider perspectives. He has built a reputation as a master music teacher and has taught at all levels, from universities and conservatoires to music therapy, community music and school contexts. He has gained invaluable insights from research into fields such as the pedagogy of improvisation, and is increasingly being recognised for the new choral soundscapes he is composing inspired by contemporary paradigms in music.

Michael will also be assisted by Tonalis Teachers - *Lorin Panny and Marianne Asjiki*

Practical Aspects

Duration of the Contact Time

This part-time Foundation Training offers **20 days** contact time spread over **1 Year** divided into **10 Weekend Modules**.

The training meets once a month from July to May (with the exception of December).

Structure and Methods for Each Module

In addition to introducing the composition themes (overleaf), we will:

- Perform and Discuss Each Other's Compositions (These will have been composed during the distance learning periods.)
- Develop Practical Musicianship Skills using Creative Methods (e.g. via improvisation)
- Enter into Different Styles of Music as inspiration for your Compositions
- Listen to and Analyse Compositions by Great Composers to help you expand your awareness of how music works

Distance Learning & Resources

Distance Learning. The aim of all the teaching provided during contact time is that it should act as a springboard to launch you into your own creativity and composing.

Distance Learning Study Hours: As a guide we advise a minimum of 5 hours/ week.

Resources and Study Materials. To assist distance learning, students are asked to study specific text books and listen to recommended pieces of music and musical genres.

Who is the Training For?

This training is for everyone who has always wanted to compose their own music.

No previous formal music training is needed.

The following elements are, however, required.

- i) a foundation level understanding of music notation
- ii) the ability to use an instrument (such as a piano/keyboard/piano accordion, guitar or lyre), or the ability to use a composition based computer programme
- iii) a recording device to monitor and appraise the progress of your compositions.

Above all, I can promise that no one will finish this training without becoming a substantially better and more creative musician.

A Certificate of Course Completion is given to students at the end of the course.

APPLICATION FORM - Composing the Future

Please complete and send with a non-refundable £40 Deposit/ Admin.Fee payable to 'Tonalis' at:-
4 Castle Farm Close, Leighterton, Glos. GL8 8UY, England.

Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Do you require accommodation? Yes No

If 'Yes' we will send you a list of local hosts, B&B and hotels for you to make your own arrangements. Prices for local family hosts are approx. £20/person/night. (N.B. Own transport may be necessary for these.)

Meals: Lunches and Suppers are available at local cafés.

- A QUESTIONNAIRE regarding your reasons for wanting to take this course and your musical background will be sent on receipt of *the Application Form and Deposit/Admin.Fee.*
- A REGISTRATION LETTER with travel Information and registration times, etc. will be sent when the requisite number of participants permit the training to start.



Fees

Tuition Fees:	£ 795	£835	£870
		(i.e. 2 x £418)	(i.e. 3 x £290)
If paying in:	1 instalment	2 instalments	3 instalments

Discounted Fees

£20 deducted from the Fees for **Early Booking by March 1st.**

£45 deducted from the Fees for full-time students, people on income support and OAPs.

Work Scholarship Fee: £95 off the above fees

A LIMITED number of Work Scholarships are available to help with setting up and clearing away, etc.
Priority is given to students and people on Income Support. Please check availability.

Venue

Tonalis Music Centre is housed in the 'Centre for Science and Art' in Stroud (Glos.). Stroud is a lively old mill town situated in the midst of the beautiful Cotswold countryside. Eating out is easy in local cafés which our students find suit all tastes and budgets. Train connections to all parts of the country are excellent.