

**Who is the Choir for?**

ILLUMINA is for everyone who wants to sing unforgettable, life enhancing, transformational sacred music.

The choir 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.

ALL THE MUSIC WILL BE TAUGHT AURALLY. 'Downloadable Rehearsal Files' will be available so that you can learn and practise the music in between rehearsals. (Music Reading skills - whilst welcome - are not essential. An ability to pitch match is however necessary.)

People with music reading skills will be provided with scores (if they want them).

**Structure** The choir will meet one Sunday per month during the 3 terms of the year.

**Festival Celebrations**

At the end of each term the choir will share the music that it's learnt as part of an uplifting sacred liturgy/celebration to which friends and family will be invited. This will take place in the beautiful holarium at the MATARA CENTRE in Kingscote (6 miles South of Stroud).

N.B. There will be an extra rehearsal on the day of the festival sharing.

**Choir Leader**

*Michael Deason-Barrow* - Director of Tonalis - is an inspirational, choir leader and master singing teacher. He runs courses all over the world connected to sacred musicing and specialises in composing music for sacred spaces. He has also led a choir of 250 singers in a concert of global sacred choral music at the celebrated '3 Choirs Festival' in Gloucester Cathedral. He is recognised for being that rare exponent of music, an expert with a universal attitude.

**Testimonials**

"Here, we become the living cathedral - not made with the sound of hammers, but with the wonder and amazement of our singing."

PEGGY COOPER - inspired by singing "Ikon of the Nativity" by John Tavener on a Tonalis Course.

"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 - Renowned Composer and Author of 'In Quest of Spirit in Music'

**Fee: £24/day. OAPs: £21/day. Couples, Students & People on Income Support: £18/day**

**Times: 10am - 5pm Sunday Lunch: Bring & Share Tea & Coffee will be provided.**

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

**Application Form - 'ILLUMINA Sacred Choir'**

*Please complete and send to the Tonalis address above.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

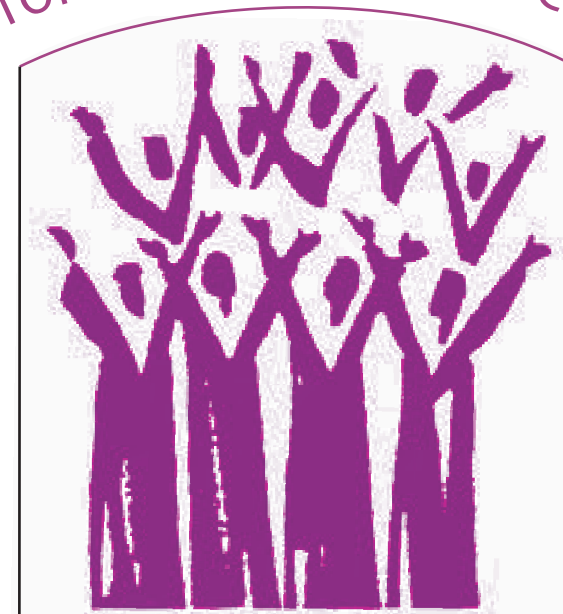
*'The Spirit will not descend without a Song'*

**ILLUMINA**  
A New Community Choir  
for Singing the Sacred

Sacred Chants:  
Gregorian,  
Early Irish  
& Byzantine

New Sacred  
Musics  
e.g. John Tavener

Transcendant  
Early Music  
e.g.  
Tallis & Bach



Sacred Music  
from around  
the World  
e.g. Georgian  
& African

West Gallery  
&  
Shape Note

Gospel  
&  
Spirituals

Sing a Glorious Array of Sacred Musics  
and  
Enter into a New Vision of Music as a Sacred Art

*Tonalis*

Led by Michael Deason-Barrow

**Meets 1 Sunday per Month**

VENUE - Tonalis Music Centre, Stroud, GLOS

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

www.tonalismusic.co.uk

*"All Deep Things Are Song  
It seems somehow the very central essence of us." (T. Carlyle)*

Are you looking for an amazing choir to sing in  
that gives voice to the sacred?

If so, then take a look at ILLUMINA!

ILLUMINA is an exciting new form of community choir  
that offers you the opportunity:

- to experience a unique and uplifting approach to sacred music making
- to embrace inter-spiritual and inter-faith perspectives through singing sublime sacred choral music from both Western and World sources.

YOU WILL FIND THE MUSIC YOU WILL SING  
IS AS VIBRANT IN LIGHT & COLOUR AS A STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN A CATHEDRAL  
Songs Filled with Passionate Yearning for Union with the Divine  
Music that will Bring About An Extraordinary Sense of Peace and Serenity  
Music Filled with Joyous and Ecstatic Melodies and Rhythms.

☺ Singing sacred songs

is a fundamental part of meditation, prayer, liturgies and festivals,  
and a wonderful way of touching people's souls.

For many people all over the world music represents their primary gateway to spiritual presence. In earlier times, music and religion were so indistinguishable that it was almost impossible to make music without presupposing its connection with the divine. In our more secular, materialistic age, this connection between song and spirit has largely been lost, leaving many people feeling dispirited - not in-spirited.

*The recent upsurge of interest in sacred musics, however,  
(from TIBETAN, GREGORIAN and TAIZÉ CHANTS, to HILDEGARD OF BINGEN)  
- allied to the growing appeal of new sacred choral music  
by contemporary composers such as JOHN TAVENER & ARVO PÄRT -  
indicates there is a longing for music to once again express a spiritual dimension.*

'ILLUMINA' will therefore create a place for heaven and earth to meet  
through songs that demonstrate how music can become:

- an instrument for attuning with our inner self, and
- a means to find a spiritual centre in our lives.

**God is not Western or Eastern, but Hears the Whole World**

Just as there are many religious and spiritual paths,  
so musical pathways to divine presence are many,  
each of which is more apt for expressing different aspects of our  
relationship to the divine ground of all being.

e.g.  
some musics celebrate a DANCING GOD (e.g. Gospel, Native American & African, etc.),  
others evoke a contemplative, MEDITATIVE GOD (e.g. the singing of cathedral choirs).

'ILLUMINA' will therefore explore how our new global awareness can inspire us  
to re-tune sacred musicking to more universal perspectives, and how INTERFAITH MUSICKING  
can help build bridges between followers of different spiritual pathways.

**Tune Your Voices as Sacred Instruments**

Through the innovative and creative vocal warm-ups that Michael uses, you will have the  
chance to prepare your voices for the depths and heights of the music you will sing.

You will find his voicework offers **PROFOUND NEW SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON SINGING.**  
So come and sing your heart out and sound your whole being: body, mind, soul and spirit.

**The Music the Choir will Sing**

☺ **COME AND SING THE FOLLOWING:**

- **Sacred Music from All Around the World**  
e.g. Georgian, Hebrew and Indian
- **Ancient and Primordial Musics**  
e.g. Byzantine, Celtic and Native American Chant Traditions
- **African Songs of Praise, Thanksgiving and Jubilation**
- **Heartfelt Gospel Harmonies and African American Spirituals**

• **Sublime New Sacred Music**  
that is reinterpreting in contemporary ways the central mysteries of life and  
sounding anew the voice of eternity in the new musical paradigms of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

- **Luminous Medieval and Renaissance Music**
- **Vibrant Sacred Folk Idioms**  
e.g. West Gallery and Shape Note Traditions, plus English and Celtic Seasonal Songs