

Let Your Voice Be Heard

New Horizons

For Choir Singers, Choir Leaders
& Everyone who Loves Singing

A New Modular Part-time Foundation Training
(40 Days over 1½ Years)



Open Up to a New World of Choral Singing

- Develop the Freedom of Your Voice
- Sing the Whole World of Music
- Bring Creative Imagination into Choirs (e.g. via Improvisation)
- Go Deeper into Music • Explore Choir Leading • Give Concerts

Tonalis

Course Leader: Michael Deason-Barrow

VENUE - Tonalis Music Centre, Stroud, GLOS

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

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW IN CHOIR SINGING?

'LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD' offers you the opportunity to experience a radical and uplifting new vision of music, voicework and singing in choirs.

It is an essential training for:

- vocal and musical explorers
- choir singers • choir leaders, and
- everyone who feels passionately about singing and choral music.

We invite you to:

OPEN UP TO OTHER SIDES OF CHORAL SINGING AND DISCOVER A NEW WORLD OF EXPANDED MUSICAL HORIZONS.

The training will provide you with

a TREASURE TROVE OF INSIGHTS & IDEAS TO ENRICH & EXTEND CHORAL SINGING
distilled from years of Tonalis' innovative work
with singers and choirs of all ages and types
from • Children's & • Youth Choirs to • Community • Chamber & • Professional Choirs.

So come and discover how
choral singing can be a magical time, when every singer in a choir
is transported to the places, times and stories that underlie each piece of music.

There is a change going on today in the World of Singing in Choirs.

New voices are sounding out from the wellsprings of world and early musics, etc., as well as arising out of the new imaginations found in contemporary choral music. These voices - allied to a wider vision of musicing that includes, for instance, the creativity of choral improvisation - are stretching the boundaries of choral singing and demonstrating the new possibilities available to choirs today.

You will find Tonalis choir training is where the striving for choral excellence, free and well-blended voices, stylistically informed practices and musical development, meets community ideals, sacred perspectives and a wider repertoire of music.

So if you want to improve your singing, deepen your musicianship,
and open up to new worlds of choral singing,

THEN THIS TRAINING IS FOR YOU!

KEY THEME 1: SING FREEDOM

This training offers you the opportunity to develop your voice skills via a unique, holistic and integrated approach. Tonalis teachers recognise that as it takes the whole person to sing, Body-Mind-Soul-and-Spirit, so voicework should also work with all these elements.

We will explore with you all the key components of singing, including how to:

- ◆ Develop the Freedom of your Breathing
- ◆ Expand the Range and Dynamics of your Voice
- ◆ Enliven the Resonance and Palette of your Vocal Colours
- ◆ Free your Larynx, Tongue and Jaw from any Tensions that Interfere with your Voice, etc.

N.B. You will find that many of the exercises we teach are used in connection with
i) *IMPROVISATION* which brings the benefits of creative imagination into voicework.

ii) *BODY-MIND-VOICE APPROACHES*

(influenced by Alexander Technique, Eurythmy, Dalcroze Eurhythmics and Laban).

In addition, you will have the wonderful opportunity to learn:

- ◆ how to sing using a range of vocal colours so that you can sing authentically in different vocal and musical styles, rather than just using a mono-chrome timbre
- ☺ new dynamic forms of GROUP VOCAL WARM-UPS that prepare choirs for singing.

There will also be GROUP ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE FOR SINGERS plus

INDIVIDUAL SINGING LESSONS

so that you receive guidance and feedback on your voice.

KEY THEME 2: SING THE WHOLE WORLD OF MUSIC

Take a voyage of discovery into the some of the hidden treasures of choral music, and open up to new visions of music that will extend your musical horizons.

- ◆ NEW CHORAL MUSIC FOR OUR TIME, e.g. Tavener, Pärt, Tormis and MacMillan
- ◆ GLORIOUS MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE MUSIC from Hildegard of Bingen to Tallis
- ◆ BAROQUE, CLASSICAL & ROMANTIC MASTERPIECES from Bach and Mozart to Bruckner
- ◆ ELEMENTAL WORLD CHORAL TRADITIONS from Bulgaria and Georgia to Africa
- ◆ SEASONAL SONGS OF CEREMONY from English and Celtic Folk Traditions
- ◆ HEARTFELT GOSPEL, SPIRITUALS, WEST GALLERY AND SHAPE NOTE TRADITIONS

Through this glorious repertoire you will sing, the training will -
TELL THE WHOLE STORY OF MUSIC - not reduce music to the partial perspective of just one style.

Open Doors into Different Musical Styles

Have you ever wanted to explore how different musical idioms work - e.g. why do African rhythms and Bulgarian harmonies sound so different to their western counterparts, - or what does it mean to perform authentically in a Renaissance style, or one that is appropriate for Georgian or African Music, etc.? This training will help you understand the stylistic factors underlying particular idioms of music without which features which are essential to the meaning of a piece of music can be destroyed.

Music History: A New Map of Our Journey with Music

On each module we will introduce you to the key paradigms and characteristic features underlying the use of the elements of music (e.g. melody, rhythm, harmony and timbre, etc.) in

- a particular period of history
- a specific culture, and, above all, in
- contemporary music.

These sessions will also help you understand how the study of music is the study of man,, namely how music articulates peoples' different world views, as well as how the

- functions and
- contexts for which the music was conceived shaped its creation and reception.

N.B. As you study the music of different historical epochs (e.g. Renaissance Music), or different cultures (e.g. Georgian), we will sing representative examples from each of these idioms.

Tuning and Blend: The Circle of Singing Listeners

Explore new means to transform one of the key challenges all choirs face, namely, how to:

- sing in tune and transform flat/sharp singing
- blend different voices colours together
- become 'harmonic' instruments - not just melodic ones - through learning how to adjust your voices in relationship to other parts.

KEY THEME 3: GET INSIDE THE INNER LIFE OF MUSIC

Practical Musicianship and The Art of Interpretation

We all want to create music that is full of musical expression (i.e. we want to 'sing the truth' of the music, as opposed to getting stuck on just singing - or reading - the outer notes). Just as importantly, we also want to get inside the inner meaning of a song's poetry so that we can become the events in the music - rather than just being the narrator.

So come and discover new methods to: i) deepen your musicianship so that you experience your musical skills growing with each module, and ii) develop your interpretation skills so you can determine what is to be emphasised in each piece and how to communicate it.

**This Journey into the Inner Life of Music will be
an Exciting Journey into the Heart of Musical Meaning:
and will illuminate the Order, Mysteries and Laws which Govern Musical Creation.**
plus

- ☉ Explore how to WARM-UP MUSICALLY and energise a choirs' HEARING, via games such as 'The Lost Chord' and 'Harmony Tag'.

Explore New Learning and Teaching Methods for Choirs

Discover new ideas for helping you to learn the music - including how to get inside challenging rhythms, intervals and harmonies - so that you can move beyond a mere learned note level to creative and artistic choral singing. Also develop your aural skills via practising:

- ◆ INNER LISTENING
- ◆ WHOLE BRAIN LISTENING
- ◆ WHOLE BODY LISTENING

A unique feature of 'Tonalis Choir work' is the balance of

Visual, Aural, Kinaesthetic & Creative Methods we use to help people learn the music, e.g.

- melody learning systems (e.g. a new understanding of sol-fa and the use of hand signs which provide a kinaesthetic way of experiencing the qualities of different intervals)
 - rhythm learning systems (e.g. movement words and metrical counting), as well as inspirational ways to develop your sense of rhythm - as opposed to just relying on counting
 - a new form of notation Michael has designed for aural learners to learn music quickly.
- + Practise New Ways to Improve your Music Reading and Sight Singing.

KEY THEME 4: CREATIVITY & COMMUNITY IN CHOIRS

The Creative Voice - Improvising in Choirs

An exciting and innovative feature of this Training is the opportunity it offers you to bring imagination and creativity into choral singing through exploring choral improvisation, including:

- how to improvise on the elements of music found in each piece in order to help singers get inside the composer's imagination
 - new compositions which employ improvisation +
- ☉ Explore WARM-UPS that awaken a choir's musical IMAGINATION via IMPROVISATIONS with intriguing names such as 'the energy ball', 'tone journey' and 'don't drop the drone'.

The Choir as Community

Choirs do not just have a musical function, they also bring into our lives extraordinary social and spiritual elements. Indeed, for many people, singing in a choir is about improving their quality of life and even a sense of spiritual alchemy. Thus you can speak about the inner life of a choir.

This training will therefore focus on all the factors that create the human ensemble - so that a balance is struck between the musical, vocal and social needs of choirs.

It will also introduce you to ideas for

- creating NEW FORMS OF COMMUNITY CHOIR, and

- ☉ How to WARM-UP SOCIALLY so that choirs learn to work as teams via Circle Games and Improvisations with names such as 'sound swaps'.

KEY THEME 5: GIVE CONCERTS

As part of the training we invite you i) to develop your choir performing skills through giving performances, and ii) to rethink the art of performance through exploring new ideas and formats for choral concerts, including a new approach to singing we call - 'SOUNDS IN SPACE - SOUNDS IN MOVEMENT' - where the musical structures of compositions are enhanced through the spatial placement/movement of the singers.

KEY THEME 6: CHOIR LEADING (OPTIONAL)

These sessions are for course participants who are - or want to be - Choir Leaders. (N.B. At the same time all other participants will receive teaching to help them deepen their work on choral singing, voicework, improvisation and musicianship, etc.)

A key reason we are offering the 'Choir Leader Sessions' is because many people often find themselves leading choirs without ever having received much help or coaching regarding:

- CHORAL CONDUCTING • VOCAL EDUCATION OR • REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES, etc..

These sessions offer you the chance to explore all the myriad of questions involved in
CREATING CHORAL EXCELLENCE

so that you can make the informed choices that will help you create wonderful choirs.

The Art of Choral Conducting

Come and practically explore all the core components of conducting, including how to establish a beat, show different metres, give cues and cut-offs, and vary dynamics, etc.

In addition, we will explore how conducting gestures can:

- communicate both positive and negative messages to singers' voices
- visually amplify the life of the music • display clear/unclear intentions, etc.
- show the timbre of the voice and the unique gestures underlying each vowel and consonant
- make an immediate kinaesthetic link to singers' voices using voice movement techniques with intriguing names such as 'up-and-over', 'linguini pull' and 'forward spin'

N.B. You will have regular opportunities to practice i) conducting & ii) choir leading.

Develop All the Skills You Need for Choir Training

- ◆ Learn to Find Entry Points - Explore how to create orientations to help singers enter into what is central to each composition. Also discover how sharing the stories, contexts and cultural traditions underlying each song - as well as the links between the music and the composers' biographies - can help choirs sing the music from a deeper more authentic place.
- ◆ Develop Aural Skills for Choir Leaders - Learn to listen on several levels simultaneously so you can detect inaccuracies and problems of vocal technique and tuning, etc..
- ◆ Learn to Design Great Warm-ups (e.g. ones that create a connection to the upcoming music)
- ◆ Develop Your Knowledge of Singing, Musical Styles & Choral Repertoire
- ◆ Explore how to i) Create Effective Rehearsals and ii) Build Programmes
- ◆ Score Preparation - Learn to identify the unique challenges each piece poses to a choir - (and how to create strategies to solve them) - and study how to mark up a score
- ◆ Investigate the Role of the Conductor and Communication Skills
- ◆ Explore how to Achieve Full Participation in Choir Rehearsals so that you work with the whole choir all of the time even when helping particular sections (e.g. the tenors).

TESTIMONIALS

What is unique about Michael's work is his success in building bridges between styles and choral traditions, 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.

Whether you are a professional ensemble, an experienced choral society, a chamber choir, or a new community group, Michael Deason-Barrow can take you to new places and give you new experiences in singing which will change your life.

MIKE BREWER, OBE, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF GREAT BRITAIN

CONDUCTOR OF THE AWARD WINNING CHAMBER CHOIR, LAUDIBUS & AUTHOR OF 'KICK START YOUR CHOIR'

Tonalis is a rare and wonderful organisation which I am proud to have been associated with. Under the remarkable leadership, guidance and methodology of Michael, participants receive a treasure trove of ideas and skills-training. I heartily recommend these courses to anyone who feels passionately about choir singing.

SUSAN DIGBY - FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL OF THE VOICES FOUNDATION & JUDGE ON 'LAST CHOIR STANDING'

The course gave me the background and courage to be out there and to start teaching singing. Without your inspirational methods I would not have done this.

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!'

TEACHING STAFF

Michael Deason-Barrow (GRSM, ARCM, PGCE) - Director of Tonalis - is an inspirational Choir Trainer and a master Singing Teacher, who runs courses all over the world connected to singing. He studied with great singing masters like Peter Pears and has a wide background as a performer. He regularly gives voice masterclasses in conservatoires, as well as working with community choirs and children's groups. In 2007 he directed a choir of 250 singers in a concert of sacred choral music from all over the world in Gloucester Cathedral as part of the 'The Three Choirs' festival - the world's oldest and most celebrated choir festival.

Lorin Panny teaches music through movement and eurythmy to help students experience how movement can help in all aspects of musical/vocal development. She also teaches new forms of circle games which deepen awareness of the elements of music.

Pia Poulsen is a singing teacher and voice therapist. On this training she will teach individual singing lessons and facilitate voice warm-ups.

Marianne Asjiki will help with the practical musicianship classes and vocal warm-ups.

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 unspoilt, beautiful countryside of the Cotswolds. 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.

WHO IS THE TRAINING FOR?

This training will meet the needs of the many people who are searching for new holistic ways of singing, and who want to explore new visions of music, choral singing and choir leading - whether at amateur or professional level.

It is for:

- ◆ everyone who is passionate about singing who wants to go more deeply into it *and will address the needs of Singers and Choir Leaders connected to the following groups:*
 - ◆ Children's and Youth Choirs
 - ◆ Church and Sacred Music Choirs
 - ◆ Community ◆ Gospel & ◆ World Music Groups
 - ◆ Male and Upper Voice Choirs ◆ Barbershop Singers
 - ◆ Chamber Choirs & ◆ Early Music Ensembles
 - ◆ Symphony Choruses & Choral Societies
 - ◆ Non-Traditional Choirs, e.g. Seniors Choirs

N.B. To meet the different needs of singers connected to all the above groups, - (e.g. choir leaders vs. choir singers; professional vs. amateur; or visual vs. aural learner) - we will sometimes divide participants into two groups.

You will find all Tonalis' work is strongly practical and informed by the latest research, as well as being uplifting, joyful and life enhancing.



ADMISSIONS

Students are advised that they need to have Foundation Levels in the following:

- Music Reading
- Aural Awareness
- Pitch Matching
- Music Theory.

(Please contact the Tonalis office for further clarification about this if you wish to.)

(Photo - 'Tonalis Company of Singers' members rehearsing for a concert.)

THE STRUCTURE OF THE TRAINING

DURATION This Part-time Training offers **40 days** Contact Time with Teachers spread over 1½ years interspersed with periods of Distance Learning.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONTACT TIME

Late July	-	6 days	Easter holidays	-	5 days
September (1 st w/end)	-	2 days	May half-term	-	3 days
October half-term	-	3 days	Late July	-	6 days
December (1 st w/end)	-	2 days	September (1 st w/end)	-	2 days
January (2 nd - 5 th)	-	3 days	October half-term	-	3 days
February half-term	-	3 days	December (1 st w/end)	-	2 days

N.B. The trainings can also begin at Easter.

CONCERTS: The first concert will take place at the end of the Easter module, and the training will finish with two celebratory Christmas concerts.

N.B. i) No tuition fees are charged for concert days.

ii) The 3 concert days are additional to the above 40 days.

• DISTANCE LEARNING • METHODS • PREPARATION FOR STUDY

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 practice and creative research.

Distance Learning provides the periods of time needed to review, test, apply and consolidate the inspiration of the teaching within your own life, as well as the chance to:

- Practice
- Learn Music
- Keep a Practice Log & a Learning Journal
- Work on Practical Musicianship Skills
- Study via Preparatory Reading.

Distance Learning Study Hours: As a guide we advise a minimum of 8 hours/ week.

Resources and Study Materials. To assist distance learning, students are asked to study Michael Deason-Barrow's handbooks on 'Creating Choral Excellence' and Voice Exercises as well as chapters from his forthcoming book 'Singing with the Whole Voice'.

Orchestrating Optimal Learning: New Methods

Learning on Tonalis Courses takes place via a multifaceted engagement with music which balances: • Visual, Aural, Kinaesthetic & Creative Methods • Right & Left Brain Learning.

Preparation for Study. Once you have decided to apply for this Training we ask you to reflect on when, where and how you are going to study and practice.

N.B. A CERTIFICATE OF COURSE COMPLETION will be presented to students at the end of the course.

APPLICATION FORM - Let Your Voice be Heard

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

Do you require accommodation? Yes No

If yes: Room with local family Local B&B

*We will send you a list of local hosts or B&B/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.)*

On a separate A4 page please could you please respond to the following questions:

- i) Your aims in taking the training?
- ii) Your musical background so far: (e.g. at school and any private music tuition, etc.)
- iii) Do you play any musical instrument(s) and to what level?
- iv) Please list any work experience in music (e.g. teaching or performing)
- v) Please list any music qualifications/exams
- vi) What musical genres do you perform, study or listen to?
- vii) Do you have any health problems, physical disabilities or learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia)?



Meals: Lunches and Suppers are available at local cafés.

A Registration Letter - including Travel Information and Registration Times etc.
- will be sent on receipt of *the Application Form and Deposit/Admin.Fee.*

FEES

Tuition Fee: £ 1,485	£1,525	£1,565	£1,600
	(i.e. 2 x £763)	(i.e. 3 x £522)	(i.e. 4 x £400)
If paying in:	1 instalment	2 instalments	3 instalments
			4 instalments

Discounted Fees = £30 deducted from the Fees for Early Booking by May 15th.
= £80 deducted from the Fees for Full Time Students by May 15th.

Work Scholarship Fee: £150 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.