

## > 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**

Michael Deason-Barrow offers a new paradigm to voice work. His course was an unparalleled vibrant, holistic weaving of the physical, the didactical, the cultural, the artistic and the spiritual 'vocal' threads; led by an artist, performer and teacher of the highest musical and vocal prowess. This approach meets the challenges of all levels of vocal ability, equally essential for the amateur, student or professional alike.

**MARTYN HILL, Professor of Singing, Trinity College of Music, London**

Tonalis is a rare and wonderful organisation which I am proud to have been associated with. It is seldom one comes across music education training of equal dynamism and integrity. Under the remarkable leadership, guidance and methodology of Michael, participants receive a treasure trove of ideas and skills-training. I heartily recommend these courses.

**SUSAN DIGBY - Founder and Principal of The Voices Foundation**

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!'**

## BOOKING

*If you are interested in a Tonalis Choir Training Day/Workshop you can book Michael Deason-Barrow for any of the following: 1 → 1½ → 2 days.*

*Please choose just one Theme/Day.*

*N.B. Two themes from options 4, 5 and 6 can be undertaken.*

*His Daily Fee is £325 → £395*

*(depending on geographical location)*

*For 1 Weekend or 2 days the Fee is £700*

*+ Travel Expenses (and accommodation if necessary).*

*For further enquiries please contact the Tonalis office. (See the front for contact details.)*

# NEW HORIZONS FOR CHOIRS

## Training Days & Weekend Workshops for Choirs

### Led by Michael Deason-Barrow



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## Create Choral Excellence and Discover New Worlds of Choral Singing

- Sing with the Whole Voice  
Voice Technique for 21st Century Singers
- Expand the Borders of Singing & Sing in Different Styles  
from World and Early Musics to Contemporary Voicings
- Bring Alexander Technique & Movement into Voicework
  - The Creative Voice: Choral Improvisation

# Tonalis

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# TONALIS CHOIR TRAINING DAYS & WORKSHOPS

## A NEW VISION OF SINGING IN CHOIRS & A NEW WORLD OF EXPANDED MUSICAL HORIZONS.

### We Invite Conductors and Choirs to Open Up to Other Sides of Choral Singing.

*If you are interested in:*

- ◆ Developing the Expressive Freedom of Your Choir's Singing
- ◆ Exploring the Widest Range of Musical, Vocal and Choral Styles (e.g. World Voices)
- ◆ Bringing •Improvisation •Movement & •Body-Mind-Voice Approaches into Rehearsals
- ◆ Bringing Creative Imagination into Choirs via Choral Improvisation

*then a Tonalis Training Day/Workshop will help your choir achieve these aims.*

You will find Tonalis' choir training helps address all the myriad questions involved in CREATING CHORAL EXCELLENCE, from the development of free and well-blended voices and stylistically informed performance practices, to how to develop the choir's musicianship and sense of intonation.

**They offer you the opportunity to experience a wider repertoire of music and an uplifting new vision of voicework and choral singing, and will provide you with a treasure trove of ideas distilled from years of innovative work with singers and choirs of all ages and types,**

e.g.

- ◆ Choral Societies & ◆ Symphony Choruses
- ◆ Chamber Choirs & ◆ Early Music Ensembles
  - ◆ Community and ◆ Gospel Choirs
  - ◆ World Music Groups
  - ◆ Male and Upper Voice Choirs
  - ◆ Barbershop Singers
- ◆ Church and Sacred Music Choirs
- ◆ Children's and Youth Choirs.



THESE IN-SERVICE DAYS /WORKSHOPS  
ARE ESSENTIAL FOR:

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

### > IN-SERVICE DAY / WORKSHOP TUTOR

*Michael Deason-Barrow (GRSM, ARCM) - Director of Tonalis* teaches voicework and choral singing at all levels, from universities and schools to community music contexts, including giving singing masterclasses in conservatoires (e.g. the Royal College of Music and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama).

He has studied singing with great masters like Peter Pears and Jürgen Schriefer, and gained invaluable insights from his extensive research into medieval and contemporary vocal techniques, as well as into different world voice styles and choral idioms - (about which he is one of the world's leading authorities).

He has a wide background as a performer from art song recitals - including contemporary music written for his voice (e.g. Vagn Holmboe) - to singing in early music consorts and free improvisation groups. He leads courses all over the world connected to holistic singing and directs Foundation Trainings in the fields of 'Uncovering the Voice' and 'Choir Leading with Choral Conducting'. Recently 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.

Increasingly, he is being recognised for being that rare exponent of music, an expert with a universal attitude, a specialist equally at home with professional musicians and non-specialists alike.



### TONALIS: CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSIC

Tonalis - which means to tone and to tune - was founded in 1991 to provide new forms of music training for students, including preparing them for new career pathways such as Singing Animateurs in schools, Voice Therapists, and Community Choir Leaders. In addition, we offer In-service Training Days, Weekend Workshops and Residential Courses.

## 5) TUNING IN & BLEND: THE SINGER AS A HARMONIC INSTRUMENT

*One of the key challenges all choirs face is to learn how to:*

- i) sing in tune and improve intonation in order to transform flat/sharp singing
- ii) blend the different voice colours of choir members who have, for instance, dark vs. bright voices, through exploring how to balance resonance and vowel harmonics, etc.
- iii) achieve both good horizontal tuning (i.e. between the different intervals of a melody), and good vertical tuning (i.e. between the notes of a chord). In addition, choir members will have the opportunity to practice becoming 'Harmonic' instruments - not just melodic ones - through learning how to adjust their voices in relationship to the other parts.



© Wren Hughes

*You will find all the new innovative strategies 'TUNING IN' offers will benefit your choir enormously.*

## 6) THE CREATIVE VOICE - IMPROVISING IN CHOIRS

*Would you like to explore the benefits of bringing creative imagination - via improvisation - into choral work and vocal development?*

- In these sessions I explore imaginative ways of helping choirs enter into vocal improvisation which leads choirs to experience a wonderful array of vocal colours, harmonies, rhythms and textures. It will also demonstrate how improvisation facilitates:
- Good Listening
  - Creative Imagination
  - Community and Team Building
  - Spontaneity and Presentness
  - Expressive Singing

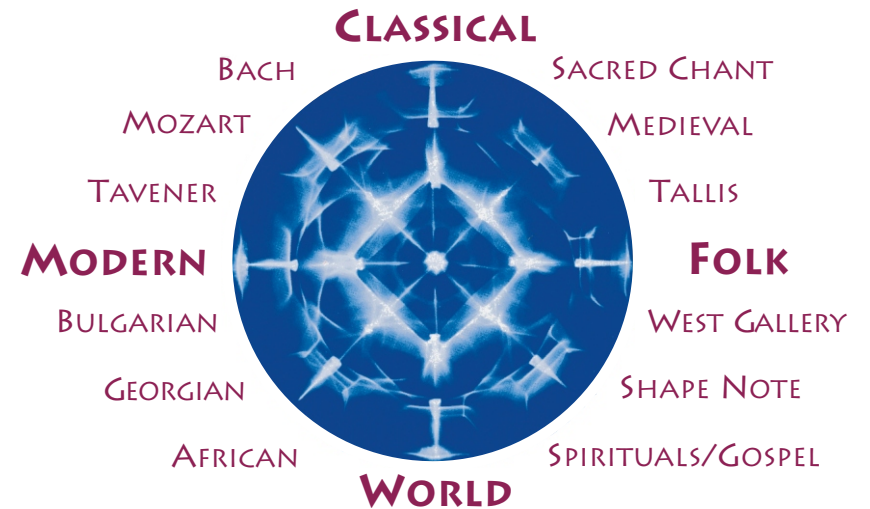
*In addition we will:*

- i) sing new choral compositions which employ improvisation and
- ii) explore how improvisation can help choirs creatively enter into the composer's imagination and deepen their interpretation through learning how to improvise on the elements of music found in each composition.

Just as importantly in this connection, Michael is well known for working with voice exercises based on improvisation frameworks that bring the benefits of spontaneity, flexibility and creative imagination into voice development.

## 1) A WIDER VISION OF SINGING STYLES AND CHORAL MUSIC

EXPAND THE BORDERS OF SINGING



Over the last 30 years a multiplicity of extraordinary singing styles and beautiful choral idioms have emerged in our midst (e.g. Georgian Sacred Music).

These voices, e.g. Multicultural and Early Music Voicings, Gospel and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Extended Voice Techniques - are demonstrating a move towards new paradigms in choral singing.

So take a voyage of discovery into some of the hidden treasures of choral music that will extend your musical horizons guided by Michael, who is one of the world's leading authorities on how to set up the voice in order to sing in different styles.

For this theme, choirs are invited to choose one of the following groups of idioms:

- 1) • SACRED CHANT TRADITIONS, e.g. *Gregorian, Byzantine, Native American & Celtic*
  - WORLD CHORAL TRADITIONS, e.g. *Bulgarian, Georgian, African & Inuit*
- 2) • ENGLISH / CELTIC FOLK AND WEST GALLERY TRADITIONS
  - GOSPEL, SPIRITUALS AND SHAPE NOTE TRADITIONS
- 3) • MEDIEVAL VOICINGS, *from Hildegard of Bingen & the Worcester MS to Machaut*
  - RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE MUSIC, *from Sacred Polyphony to Secular Street Cries, and from Purcell and Bach to Handel*
- 4) • NEW CHORAL MUSIC *from Tavener, Pärt & Gorecki to Tormis & MacMillan*

Through this NEW REPERTOIRE choirs can explore the diverse ways people weave their voices together in choral music from all over the world and from different ages.

## 2) VOICE TECHNIQUE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY SINGER

*Tonalis Training Days/Workshops offers choirs the opportunity to work with a master singing teacher on vocal skills development (see Testimonials).*

A key theme of Tonalis Choir Training Days and Workshops is to awaken choir members' awareness of how to free their voices.

Many things that go wrong with singing begin with either bodily interference in the form of subconscious physical habits and tensions, psychological inhibitions, or misconceptions about singing - all of which combine to restrict singers vocal freedom and expression and lead them to use only a small part of their vocal potential.

Through Tonalis' voicework, choirs find that their voices can become more like an orchestra with a wide range of colours, instead of being like a single instrument capable of singing in only one specialised style.

**This in-service day/workshop will help choir members liberate their voices through innovative exercises/improvisations that will revitalise their singing.**

*The exercises will help participants:*

- Extend the Range of their Voices and • Expand their Palette of Vocal Colours
- Free the Larynx, Tongue and Jaw from Tensions that Interfere with Vocal Freedom
- Develop Whole Body Breathing - including innovative ideas for bringing about reflexive breathing, when the breath naturally fills us instead of singers 'Taking' a Breath
- Sing well tuned vowels and resonant rich consonants (see below).



Photo of person's breath when singing 'R'

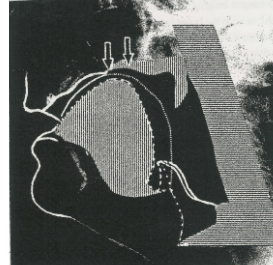


Photo of person's breath when singing 'T'

(Photos from 'Luftlautformen sichtbar gemacht' by J.Zinke) Verlag Freies Geistesleben



U  
X-ray photograph of a vocal tract forming the vowels u [oo] and i [ee]. (Original source [from Appleman, *The Science of Vocal Pedagogy*, © 1967, Indiana University Press] B&V Thurman & Welch, 2000, pg.474.)



## 3) THE MOVING VOICE

**'BEHIND EVERY MOVING VOICE IS A DANCING BODY' (JOHN WRIGHT)**

Many people think their voice is tense and unfree, when in fact it is tensions in their body that is leading to their limited voice use. Because sounds are movements - and because our voices are fundamentally connected to our whole body - we will explore how voicework needs to be interwoven with work on the body.

This Training Day / Workshop offers a practical guide to the ways in which movement can enable choirs to free their voices, facilitate good body-mind-voice connections, and help expressive singing of choral music to come about.

*On this Tonalis Day participants also learn about IDIOKINESIS - a psycho-physical method - through which kinaesthetic images of the body in motion are used to stimulate appropriate bodily change to encourage greater vocal freedom.*

*(N.B. These images are based on a profound knowledge of anatomy.)*

To work with this theme Michael Deason-Barrow will employ elements derived from:

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE,

DALCROZE EURHYTHMICS & STEINER'S EURYTHMY.

**SOUNDS IN SPACE: SOUNDS IN MOVEMENT**

In addition, your choir will have the exciting opportunity to explore an approach to singing Tonalis is famous for, where the musical structures of a composition are enhanced through using spatial placement/movement of singers.

## 4) NEW WARM-UPS FOR CHOIRS

*The importance of effective warm-ups cannot be over estimated.*

Michael Deason-Barrow offers new forms of warm-ups that get the body, voice, listening, musicianship, imagination and community of the choir ready for choral singing, e.g.

- How to WARM-UP THE VOICE and open the BODY to make it conducive to singing
- How to energise the choir's HEARING and develop their Musicianship
- How to energise the choir's CREATIVE IMAGINATION via Improvisation
- How to warm-up SOCIALLY so that the choir learns to work effectively as a team

*In addition, this In-service Day theme will demonstrate :*

- how to design warm-ups that create a connection to the music that succeeds them - through focussing on its specific vocal and stylistic requirements
  - how to work on vocal development whilst learning repertoire through the use of Tonalis' innovative 'bridge' exercises.