

## Who is the Course For?

This illuminating course will enable you to bring about an imaginative dialogue between the music, the poem and your creativity as a singer. It will fan your creative sparks and build - module by module - a new repertoire of skills for you to bring into your vocal/choral performances.

*You'll find the approach is holistic, strongly practical and utterly professional.*

*It is essential for:*

- everyone who wants to develop their musical interpretation and communication skills
  - vocal and musical explorers who are passionate about singing
- & • confident singers and voice professionals who want to take a fresh look at interpreting, communicating and performing songs.

*It's also a must-do course for:*

- CHOIR LEADERS and • CHORAL / CONSORT SINGERS.

*The course is for singers who sing in a wide variety of musical and vocal idioms,*

*e.g. • Classical and • Early Music*

- Folk • Jazz • World Music and • Singer-Song Writers.

## The Structure for Each Module

*Each module will explore with you all the themes outlined above, including sessions to:*

- Deepen and develop your musicianship skills • Work on your textual expression
- Bring imagination, soulfulness and spiritual presence into your song singing
- Develop your stylistic awareness and understanding of performance practices
- Develop your communication and performance skills

*During each module there'll also be*

- **Regular Performance Practice Opportunities**

with coaching from Michael and feedback from your fellow students

- **Consort and Choral Singing**

where you can put all your new skills into practice in a group context

- **Vocal Warm-Ups and sessions to help you with your Vocal Development.**

**Times:** All weekends modules are monthly: Saturday 11 - 7pm, Sunday 9:30 - 4:30pm

All 3 day modules take place every 6 weeks, in school half-terms & holidays - Friday to Sunday.

Friday 2 - 9pm, Saturday 10 - 6:30pm, Sunday 9:30 - 4:30pm.

**Starting Date:** EASTER 2017.

**Distance Learning:** The aim of all the teaching is that it should act as a springboard to launch you into your own practice at home. Practice recommendations are given at the end of each module so that your interpretation skills develop ever greater fluency.

# Bring Music to Life

## Re-Imagine

### The Art of Song Interpretation

*New Pathways into:*

- Expressive Singing
- Vibrant Performances
- & • Deeper Levels of Musical Meaning



Delve deeply into a  
wealth of inspiring ideas

to enliven & illuminate  
your singing of songs

*Tonalis*

Led by Michael Deason-Barrow

**A New Modular Part-time Course**

**Duration: 15 Days - 3 Weekends & 3 three-day Modules**

**VENUE - The Field Centre, Nailsworth, GLOS.**

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

## Interpretation - Expression - Communication

THINK OF - great Classical Singers e.g. Fischer-Dieskau  
great Jazz Singers e.g. Billie Holiday  
great Folk Singers e.g. Jeannie Robertson & Singer Songwriters e.g. Joni Mitchell  
What do they all have in common? THEY'RE ALL GREAT SONG INTERPRETERS!

We all want to create music that is full of musical expression.

We all want to 'sing the truth' of the music, not just the outer notes.

We all want to get inside the deeper meaning of a song's poetry so that we can become the events in the music - not just be the narrator.

*'The Art of Song Interpretation' is all about:*

- **discovering and communicating the deeper layers of meaning in a song**
  - **how you make choices as to what to emphasise**
- **what style, colours, nuances and inflections, etc. to use in each song.**

*On this illuminating training you'll have the chance to:*

**work through loads of fascinating questions**

**to energise and illuminate your singing of songs, including how to:**

- **get beneath the surface layer of a piece of music so that you can reveal its hidden faces**
- **fully express the meaning of the song's poem or lyric**
- **get inside the musical and vocal styles of a composition so you can bring into your singing all those special nuances and special qualities that belong with each style**
- **explore the way each idiom has its own performance practices that belong to it without which essential features of the music can be destroyed**
- **draw on your inner life experiences so that your singing is guided by your imagination**
- **communicate the essence of the music to your audience and be in harmony with the song you're singing to such an extent that you can sing it from your whole being.**

*Above all, this training will help you:*

- **learn about all the choices you can make in creating your interpretation**
  - **develop your musical interpretation skills so you can make music on a more inspirational level and create stunning performances**
- **LET YOUR SOUL SOAR so that you can FULFILL YOUR DREAMS AS A SINGER.**

## Key Themes the Training will Explore

### Moving Beyond the Notes

#### How to Get Inside the Music to Deepen Your Interpretation

*Every note, every scale, and every rhythm, metre and chord calls upon you to let them influence your interpretation.*

*This training will offer you*

**a wealth of ideas to Dig Beneath the Surface of the Music you're singing to help you:** • *get inside the melodies, rhythms and harmonies in each song* • *come into communion with the soul of the music, and* • *express all its deeper layers of meaning.*

*This will include exploring:*

- **how to ANALYSE MUSIC** to determine what needs to be emphasised so you can make inspiring decisions about what tempo, colours, articulation, phrasing and dynamics, etc. to use.
- the delicate balance between: i) the musical and the poetic accents, & ii) the metrical hierarchy and the journey and shaping of melodic phrases
- how the harmony / accompaniment illustrates the text, heightens the drama and calls upon you to let it influence your interpretation and the way you sing the melody
- the influence of the instrument(s) that is accompanying you (e.g. Early Music vs Classical ones)
- which part in choral music (i.e. S A T B) has a voice leading role at any given moment.

### Singing and Imagination

**Imagination is an essential pre-requisite of singing, not an optional extra!**

*This training will help you discover* (T.Hemsley)

**fascinating new ways to bring imagination into your singing of songs so that YOUR SINGING IS ALWAYS ILLUMINED BY YOUR CREATIVITY.**

Learning to sing is not just a matter of vocal technique (which is often studied in isolation from what singing is intended to serve, i.e. musical expression).

Learning to sing is also intertwined with the 'INNER SINGER' in each of us.

To perform a song you need to call on the deepest part of your self.

This means your imagination, emotional intelligence and spirit all play a crucial role in the way you communicate a song.

*To help with all this you'll find there'll be elements of:*  
drama and liberating voice games to help you get inside each song.

### The Singer as the Storyteller

To communicate different songs every singer is called upon to expand their empathetic abilities so that they create believable characters, scenes and stories. To do this you'll be encouraged to search within yourself to locate and connect the song to your own life story.

## In Harmony with the Words - the Journey of the Poem/Lyric

The poem/lyric is the key ingredient in songs and is always the mother of the music. This, however, can sometimes be overlooked by singers in comparison to working on the music and their voices. There'll therefore be an in-depth exploration of the relationship between the text and the music so that you learn how to plumb the meaning of the poem/lyric.

*This will include how to:*

- explore the relationship between the poem's rhythm and the musical rhythm
- explore word painting • create expressive phrasing • bring about appropriate word stresses
- explore the way the unique onomatopoeic 'sound meaning' of vowels and consonants found in each lyric can add so much to an interpretation - not just the informational meaning.

## Matters of Style & Performance Practice

**Beyond the notes there's a composer, a culture, a style, a place and a time.**

*You can't approach a Purcell song like a Mahler song.*

*You can't approach singing a Folk Song like the way you sing a Jazz standard.*

*This training will help you get inside:*

**the MUSICAL STYLES that underlie each piece, and the different VOCAL STYLES & COLOURS that are a crucial part of interpretation.**

It will also help you engage in deep research into the different performance practices that inform each song, and the artistic climate (or cultural tradition) in which a composer lived.

*e.g. We'll ask is the music rooted in the composer's biography or the folk soul of a people?*

Through these means you'll feel at one with the creator or oral tradition of the song so you can let these elements that often give a song its power enlighten the way you sing it.

## Life's too Short to Wear Tight Shoes: Transform Performance Anxiety

*Many people's joy of singing is blocked by:*

- a fear of being negatively judged by others, or
- a fear of singing wrong notes, etc.

We invite you to explore how the inner stage determines the outer performance, and how to sing freedom without the anxieties that often inhibit your singing. So come and learn

**how to "move your voice from inside to outside without being stopped by the damaging layers of inner critics that often silence us",** and how to get rid of the baggage of self-doubt that so easily blocks access to your vocal potential and the joy of sharing your voice with others.

## Develop Your Communication and Performance Skills

By the end of the course you'll be able to put all the above elements together so you can perform music on a much more profound level. To help you with this we will introduce you to:

- Communication skills
- Stagecraft
- New Ways of thinking about Performance.

Plus there will be opportunities on each module for you to • Practice the Art of Performance.

## Course Leader

**Michael Deason-Barrow** (GRSM, ARCM) - Director of 'Tonalis' - is a master Singing Teacher and Choir Trainer who gives voice masterclasses in conservatoires and leads both chamber and community choirs. He studied with one of the great masters of song interpretation, Peter Pears, and has a wide background as a performer: from Art Song recitals to singing in Early Music and Folk consorts. He is recognised as an expert on how to sing in different styles and has conducted at the 'The Three Choirs' festival - the world's most celebrated choir festival - in Gloucester cathedral. Michael's new holistic vision of singing has also been featured in the 'Singer Magazine'.

**Pia Poulsen & Marianne Lihannah** - both graduates of Tonalis Singing Trainings and Voice Teachers today - will lead the vocal warm-ups and vocal development sessions.

## Testimonials

The course gave me the background and courage to be out there and to start teaching singing. 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!'

Michael has the knack to open people's minds to enable them to make music in ways they never thought possible. He can take you to new places and give you new experiences in singing which will change your life.

**Mike Brewer** - author of 'Fine Tune Your Choir' & 'Choral Warm-ups'

## FEES

**£565**

If paying in: 1 instalment

**£590** (i.e. 2 x £295)

2 instalments

**£615** (i.e. 3 x £205)

3 instalments

**Discounted Fees = £20 deducted from the Fees for Early Booking by September 1st.**

**Work Scholarship Fee: £75 off the above fees**

A Work Scholarship is available to help with setting up and clearing away, etc.

**A Registration Letter will be sent on receipt of your Application Form and Deposit.**

**Tonalis, 4 Castle Farm Close, Leighterton, Glos. GL8 8UY, England.**



**APPLICATION FORM - Bring Music to Life**

*Please complete and send with a non-refundable £40 Deposit payable to 'Tonalis' or pay into the Tonalis account: Sort Code 30-92-06, Account # 00807093.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to receive an accommodation list of local B&Bs and family hosts (c.£22/night)?**

Yes

No