

MUSIC, NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

A New Training in 2 Parts

- *Seasons & Festivals in Music*
February 29th - March 1st & April 10th - 11th
- *Nature's Music & the Soundscape*
May 2nd - 3rd & May 30th - 31st, 2020

Caring
for Our
Acoustic
Environment

The Tuning
of the
World

Journey into
Aural Ecology, Soundscape Composition
and How to Attune Music to the Seasons

Tonalis

Led by Michael Deason-Barrow

VENUE - The Field Centre, Ruskin Mill, Nailsworth, GLOS

Enquiries: tel. 01666-890460 info@tonalismusic.co.uk

Nature's Music & the Soundscape

"OUR UNIVERSE IS A SOUNDING MUSICAL COMPOSITION
in which we are simultaneously audience, performer and composer."

(R. Murray Schafer)

We are so used today to thinking about the environment in visual terms that the soundscape and aural ecology receive little attention.

This course will therefore ask,

- i) WHO SPEAKS FOR THE SOUNDSCAPE TODAY?
- ii) WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR CONNECTION TO THE NATURAL WORLD IN MUSIC?

Plus

- How can we create a new eco-centric music, i.e. a naturisation of music?
 - How can musicians make a constructive contribution to the deep environmental and urgent ecological questions of our time?
- How can music increase our concerns for the future of the earth beyond merely creating song lyrics about environmental awareness?

Modern human beings hold the world record for noise, yet we are ignoring the issue of noise pollution and its effect on our health. Literally this means our audio-ecosystem is falling apart.

*So instead of the sound of glorious bird song in the garden,
we now hear 'Radio One', pneumatic drills, chain saws, aeroplanes and traffic noise.*

It seems we no longer know -

HOW TO SING THE SONG OF THE EARTH.

In answer to this, the course will open you up to
a vast new sensory world,
namely the riffs of our aural soundscape.

It will show how we can train environmentalists and music teachers to work with

- soundscape design
- acoustic ecology and
- music in the environment.

Above all, you'll experience a glorious collaboration between

- MUSIC
- NATURE and
- SPACE

which demonstrates how soundscape processes can help humanity learn to live with and respect the natural world in an utterly new way.

Key Themes the Course will Explore

THE HISTORY OF THE SOUNDSCAPE -

Come and explore our human journey,
from the earliest Ancient and Neolithic Soundscapes
→ *Rural and Medieval Soundscapes*

→ *Urban soundscapes and the sounds of the Industrial and Electronic Revolutions.*

HOW MUSICAL STRUCTURES CAN BE INFLUENCED BY NATURE

Musical forms, voicings and instruments have traditionally been influenced by the natural environment - from the rainforest chants of Baca pygmies and the mountain soundscapes of Swiss yodellers, to Saami joiks and the music of Japanese Zen gardens.

So come and sing and play these musics inspired by their natural soundscapes.

Also tune into the music of composers whose works resonate particular soundscapes from: Sibelius' vast Finnish forests, Rautavaara's Cantus Arcticus, Vaughan Williams' Sinfonia Antarctica, Britten's seascapes, Sculthorpe's Aboriginal soundscapes, Messiaen's birdsong, Crumb's whale song, Reich's urban soundscapes, to the new soundscapes of Murray Schafer and John Luther Adams.

OUTDOOR VS INDOOR MUSIC

Explore how our journey in terms of musical contexts has been one that has moved from
OUTSIDE in NATURE

→ **INSIDE CONCERT HALLS** → today's **ENCLOSED WORLD of EARPHONES.**

This journey is echoed by the change from using

Outdoor Instruments & Voicings (e.g. bagpipes, horns and Bulgarian voices)
to playing **Indoor Instruments** (e.g. the lute) & **Indoor Styles of Singing.**

*So come and have a go at Outdoor Singing Styles and playing Outdoor Instruments,
from wassailing and street cries to playing huge primordial instruments (e.g. the lur).*

AURAL ECOLOGY and SOUNDSCAPE DESIGN

Our world is literally going deaf amid its technological din!

*This training will offer you new **Environmental Listening** activities, including:
'Listening Walks', 'Sound Diaries', and ideas for 'Repairing the Soundscape'.*

We'll also address questions such as:

- the effects of noise pollution on our health
- the implications of moving from natural (e.g. wooden) instruments to plastic & electronic ones
- how we can assess and classify the keynotes of the soundscape using the new acoustic science of **PHONOGRAPHY.**

MAN-MADE TEMPERED TUNING vs. NATURE'S TUNING

Almost all the music we hear and play today uses 'equal temperament tuning'. This has become a kind of industrial standard which makes all music disobey nature's laws. Unbeknown to most people this is a key reason we are becoming ever more disconnected from the natural world.

To explore this theme we'll compare nature's tuning (i.e. 'the Harmonic Series') with equal temperament tuning by playing magical bronze gongs (and other instruments). Through this study you'll find we can move music off the grid of equal temperament and into open country!

EXPLORE SOUNDSCAPE INSTRUMENTS - natural, ancient and new

At the heart of this course will be the exploration of both new and natural instruments that have been designed to sound in and with the natural world and how can we create music with NATURE'S ORCHESTRA OF INSTRUMENTS?

This will include investigating

- i) the extraordinary orchestra of *natural instruments* created by the Maori
- ii) *soundscape instruments that sing of the '4 elements', including:*
 - the 'fire' of primordial trumpets known as lurs and the oceanic sounds of the tam tam
 - the 'earth' rhythms of drums and stones
 - the 'air' play of flutes, wind chimes and whirlies
 - the 'water' sounds of tone harps, raintrees, waterphones and udu drums
- iii) *sound sculptures* - including interactive play sculptures - inspired by season and place
- iv) *new soundscape instruments* including: the streaming harp, Weyeneth's extraordinary standing stone lithophones and singing trees, as well as aeolian and water harps

COMPOSING THE SOUNDSCAPE

How today's Composers are turning their ears to the Music of the Earth

Explore how the resonance of different spaces and contexts shape and affect musical forms and how the elements of music (e.g. tuning, non-measured rhythms, gliding pitches and nature's textures, timbres, density and registers, etc.) have all evolved in different ways that mirror natural vs. man-made contexts.

Also explore how designing acoustic spaces was a veritable ancient practice from the amphitheatre at Epidaurus and the neolithic tomb at Newgrange to Romanesque cathedrals.

In this work we will be guided by the extraordinary soundscape research of Murray Schafer and the inspiration of his choral music for particular soundscapes. In addition, we'll study the new soundscape compositions and musical ecological ideas of John Luther Adams.

We will then create musical compositions and improvisations together so that listeners and performers alike can celebrate, enhance and nourish

THE SPIRIT OF PLACE IN MUSIC
so we can re-imagine and re-create
our relationship with the planet.

Seasons & Festivals in Music



Photo: A.Lauterwasser,
www.wasserklangbilder.de

Explore
How to Create Music in Harmony with
the TONES, RHYTHMS & SOUNDSCAPES of the SEASONS
so that each Festival
is met by Matching Qualities in Music

February 29th - March 1st & April 10th - 11th

This training is being offered in collaboration with
RUSKIN MILL TRUST.

Music Tuned to Seasonal Festivals is Music Paced by the Rhythms and Tones of Nature.

Seasonal - and Religious/Spiritual - Festivals
are life affirming community events that connect us deeply
with the earth, the heavens and the wellsprings of our lives.

*This illuminating course will help you discover how you can
make the Mood of Each Seasonal Festival Audible in Music
so that Every Season
is Met by Matching Qualities in Music.*

Above all, it will offer you a wealth of ideas and inspiration
for creating music attuned to festival celebrations.

So come and discover how songs, instrumental pieces & improvisations
can give voice to the soundscape of different festivals, from the
8 'SEASONAL' / NATURE festivals
the Winter Solstice, Imbolc, the Spring Equinox, Beltane, the
Summer Solstice, Lammastide, the Autumn Equinox and Samhain,
to
'RELIGIOUS' festivals
such as Christmas, Passiontide, Easter, Ascension, Whitsun and Michaelmas.

Traditionally music throughout the world has always been fundamental in helping
people celebrate and live in harmony with seasonal and religious festivals. Today,
however, the celebration of the 'cycle of the year' through music has largely been lost
(apart from singing Christmas carols). Yet people are increasingly realising that a root
cause of our ecological crisis is the way that our industrial and technological society is
distancing us from living with and attuning to NATURE.

*To begin to explore this theme we will start with questions such as:
What are the life forces of the plants doing at any particular time of the year?
Are they breathing in, contracting and falling (e.g. Autumn and Winter)
or are they breathing out, widening and rising (e.g. Spring and Summer)?*

*When we've attuned to these forces, then we'll
help you find the corresponding elements in music.*

Key Themes the Course will Explore

How to Awaken the Mood of each Season in Music using:

- Instruments • Scales • Intervals • Rhythms and • Harmonies, etc.
- in connection with different festivals.

In particular, we will explore with you:

- the relationship between seasons and the moods of different modes (scales) from: the rising light-filled Lydian Mode (Midsummer), and the Autumnal Aeolian Mode, to the balance of light and dark found in the Dorian Mode (Spring Equinox)
- how intervals can have an inner/darker aspect and an outer/lighter aspect
- how different metres and rhythms uniquely work with the forces of levity and gravity
- how harmonies can either be bare and still or lush and blossoming, etc.

N.B. You'll have the chance to explore all these musical elements experientially, so don't worry if you don't understand the musical language used above.

Sing and Play Seasonal and Festival Music

- e.g. • New Sacred Music Created Especially For Different Festivals
- New Seasonal/Festival Rounds
 - Festival Music from World Music Traditions
- Songs of Season and Ceremony from English & Celtic Folk Traditions (e.g. from John Barleycorn and Jack in the Green to Wassail Songs)

Improvise & Create Seasonal Soundscapes for Festivals

This course will also explore how you can IMPROVISE (& COMPOSE) MUSIC FOR EACH FESTIVAL inspired by the soundscape of each season. Such improvisations can then be played outside in nature - where you simultaneously hear the conversation between nature and music.

Explore New Instruments for Festival Celebrations

Tonalis works with new acoustic instruments that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of festival musicing. You'll find all these instruments have been designed so that non-specialists can play them. So come and explore how different instruments can be associated with specific seasons (e.g. the use of bright vs. dark instruments, or the use of iron instruments for Michaelmas and bronze ones for the Summer Solstice).

Who is the Training For?

This training is for everyone interested in a new musical response to environmental questions, including: • *Environmentalists* • *Music Educators* • *Community Musicians* • *Instrument Makers* • *Land Artists* • *Sacred Music Animators* • *People who work with Creation Spirituality*

It is appropriate for participants with ALL levels of musical experience.

N.B. You can choose between taking: i) the whole training, or ii) just one of the courses.

Testimonial

Tonalis is watering the roots of music, reviving the mystery through precise techniques, and nurturing the sacred which lies behind all inspiring performance. It is vital work.

JONATHAN HARVEY - Composer and Author of 'Music and Inspiration'

Michael Deason-Barrow - director of 'Tonalis' - has taught at all levels from universities and community contexts to schools and leads trainings in the fields of music education, singing and therapeutic musicing. He recently led a choir of 250 singers in a concert of sacred world music called 'Song of the Earth' at the celebrated '3 Choirs Festival' in Gloucester Cathedral. Michael has written books on 'The Soundscape' and 'Seasons and Festivals in Music' and specialises in creating distinctive arrangements of seasonal folk songs for choirs.

Early Bird Fee - for both courses: £320 (by Jan.15th) £335 (thereafter)

Early Bird Fee - for 1 course only: £170 (by Jan.15th) £185 (thereafter)

Work Scholarship Fee (for both courses): £255 *Please enquire re. eligibility*

Lunches: Organic soup, salad & roll is available for £5/lunch, when pre-booked.

Times: Saturdays = 11am - 6:30pm, Sundays = 10am - 5pm

A Registration Letter - including Travel Information, Accommodation List, Times, etc. will be sent on receipt of the Application Form and Deposit.



APPLICATION FORM - Music, Nature & the Environment

Please complete and send with your fee (cheques payable to 'Tonalis') at:-

4 Castle Farm Close, Lighterton, Glos. GL8 8UY, England

or pay into the Tonalis account: Sort Code 08-92-50, Account # 68684633

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

Which course(s) are you applying for?

THE FULL TRAINING SEASONS ONLY SOUNDSCAPE ONLY

Do you require accommodation? Yes (*circa £25 / night*) No

A list of local hosts and B&Bs will be sent to you.

Would you like the Lunches: Yes (*please pay cash at the workshop*) No