

Who is the Course For?

This course is for everyone interested in learning to attune music to the seasons, including:

- Teachers • Music Educators • Community Musicians
 - Instrument Makers • Land Artists • Environmentalists
 - Sacred Music Animateurs • People who work with Creation Spirituality
- It is appropriate for participants with ALL levels of musical experience.

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 has led a choir of 250 singers in a concert of sacred world music called 'Song of the Earth' at the '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.

Fees: Full Course: £155 (until June 1st) £165 (until July 1st) £170 (thereafter)
Weekend only: £110 (as above) £115 (as above) £120 (thereafter)

£10 off the above fees for: Group Bookings, Full-time Students & 2 teachers from the same school

Work Scholarship available (3 days) £115 Tea & Coffee available @ £2 per day

Lunches: Organic soup, salad & roll is available for £9/lunch, when pre-booked.

Times: Saturday = 11am - 6:30pm, Sunday = 10am - 6pm, Monday = 10am - 4:30pm

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

APPLICATION FORM - Seasons & Festivals in Music

Please complete and send with your fee (cheques payable to 'Tonalis') at:-
4 Castle Farm Close, Leighterton, Glos. GL8 8UY, England
or pay directly Tonalis Music Centre: Sort Code 08-92-50, Acc. # 68684633

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

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

22nd - 24th August, 2026

VENUE - The Wool Barn, Ruskin Mill, Nailsworth, GLOS.
Enquiries: Tel: 01666-890460 / info@tonalismusic.co.uk

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 each different festival, from the 8 'SEASONAL' / NATURE festivals the Winter Solstice, Imbolc, the Spring Equinox, Beltane, the Summer Solstice, Lammas, the Autumn Equinox and Samhain, to 'RELIGIOUS' festivals such as Christmas, the Easter Cycle, 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 the course will 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 particular, the course 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).