

# THE CELTIC CHOIR

GIVE VOICE *this Summer*  
to the *Mysteries and Magic of Music* from  
IRELAND, SCOTLAND & THE HEBRIDES



A Choral  
Festival  
in 2 Parts

Join the whole 3  
days or just  
part 1 or part 2.

Led by  
Michael  
Deason-  
Barrow

*Weave spellbinding  
Tapestries of Sound  
into Enchanting  
Choral Music*

*Tonalis*

*from  
Early Celtic Chant,  
Mouth Music, Keening,  
& Sean Nós Irish Aírs  
to Magical Love Songs*

JULY 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> 2022

VENUE - Rodborough Village Hall, nr Stroud, GLOS  
Enquiries: Tel. 01666-890460 / [info@tonalismusic.co.uk](mailto:info@tonalismusic.co.uk)  
[www.tonalismusic.co.uk](http://www.tonalismusic.co.uk)

# Celtic Soundscapes in Choral Music

Celtic peoples often say that the world is made out of music.

And what a different kind of music it is!

(Even the Gaelic word for music, 'ceol', meaning 'sounds like birds', suggests this.)

This ground-breaking **CHORAL COURSE** will vividly evoke for you  
**CELTIC SOUNDSCAPES**

from the mountains and glens of Scotland,  
to the Hebridean Seascapes & the Celtic Otherworld of Ireland.

**YOU'LL FIND IT'S A COURSE FULL OF SONGS OF ENCHANTMENT.**

Supernatural and spiritual dimensions abound,  
alongside mythic figures, shape-shifters and magical love songs.

*During these days you'll have the chance to sing*

- The full array of Celtic Choral Music (many in New Arrangements)
  - Enchanting Love Songs (e.g. 'She Moves through the Fair')
  - Early Celtic Plainchant & Medieval Music from the Orkney's  
from the songs of Columba to Deus Meus and the Hymn to St. Magnus.
  - the Ballads of Bards, Warriors and the Celtic Otherworld  
from 'Cuchullain's Lament for His Son' and 'Mo Ghile Meor' to 'The Fairies' Love Song'.

- **Mouth Music**

This is vibrant and rhythmic dance music performed with the voice  
in Ireland and Scotland (which the locals say is all 'hiddrom hodderum'.

- The Laments of Irish Keening

- The Elemental & Wild Freedom of Gaelic Psalm Singing

Enter into the unique improvisations of Gaelic Psalm Singing where **CELTIC KNOTS**  
are woven around a tune created by everyone improvising their own act of worship.

- Women's Work Songs for Waulking the Cloth

Sing the strong dancing rhythms of waulking songs (e.g. 'Wily Margaret') where  
women pound lengths of tweed on tables often to humorous lyrics on their views of men.

# Sing the Unique Musical Elements of Celtic Music

## Shape Shifting Celtic Ornamentation

Much of this music is the aural equivalent of all the Celtic knotwork you see in illuminated bibles such as the 'Book of the Kells'. It is a musical world overflowing with ornamentation. Here one tone is literally transformed into another in an astonishingly fluid way.

*So come and enjoy singing this shape shifting world of Celtic choral music with its slides, subtle inflections and elemental life forces in an extraordinary BIRD SONG and a song about SOUNDING STANDING STONES.*

## Wandering Pitches and Modal Mysteries

Come and explore what makes Celtic melodies so unique, and experience way the pitches metamorphose and wander - like the Celtic mists and the movement between the human and the other world - and the way they are woven on the loom of the special modal scales.

## The Mystical Time of Celtic Rhythms

You'll also have the chance to discover how CELTIC RHYTHMS are kinetic and often free of the kind of measured time and fixed beats that characterise so much western music. HERE TIME EXPANDS and CONTRACTS, or EVOKE THE REALM OF ETERNITY.

*To get inside this special sound world we'll explore together the unique style of Irish folk singing called 'SEAN NÓS'.*

## Explore New Musical Imaginations of Celtic Consciousness

in the music of composers such as James MacMillan's 'So Deep' (based on 'My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose') and Peter Maxwell Davies' 'Lullaby for Lucy'.

# Celtic Landscapes into Voicescapes

## Explore the Sense of Space in the Celtic World & Music

Sound the OPEN SPACES and ELEMENTAL LANDSCAPES of these worlds evoked by

- i) the openness of 'pentatonic', 'hexatonic' and modal scales
- ii) the wide range and spacious intervals, such as 10ths, 8ves, 7ths, 6ths and 5ths
- iii) the open voiced harmonies that free the kinetic life of the melody so it is not impeded.

## Sing the Rise and Fall of the Sea

in a Hebridean lament and a lilting carol

## and Tune into Celtic Spirituality in Song

Explore how the natural world is perceived as divine so that it dissolves any duality between heaven and earth and experience how this veneration of nature is woven into the songs.

## Who is the Course for?

If you have ever wondered,  
what is it that makes Celtic Music so distinctive, spellbinding and enchanting  
then this is the course for YOU!

So come and SING YOUR HEART OUT this summer  
in this festival of UNFORGETTABLE CELTIC CHORAL SINGING.

## Course Structure

This course is in 2 PARTS in order to meet the needs of both aural learners and music readers.

Part 1: Saturday to Sunday 1:30pm is open to all singers.

Part 2: Sunday afternoon & Monday is for singers with good music reading skills.

## Workshop Leader

*Michael Deason-Barrow* Director of Tonalis Music Centre - runs inspirational courses all over the world connected to choir leading. He performed for a number of years in a folk/early music group called, 'The Chanters of Taliesin', regularly leads folk music in community choirs and specialises in creating distinctive arrangements of folk songs for choirs which has led to the publication of 3 collections of these arrangements. This course is the culmination of 30 years of research into Celtic Music.

## Fees

The whole course: £140 (by May 20th) £148 (by July 1st) £155 (thereafter)

Part 1 (Sat. 11am - Sun. 1:30) or Part 2 only (Sun. 2:30 - Mon. 5pm):

£72      £77      £82 (see date deadlines above)

Couples, Group Bookings (3+) & OAPs: deduct £5 off the above fees (see date deadlines above)

Work Scholarship for Parts 1 or 2: £55 For the Whole Course £110 (by June 1st)

Times: Sat. 11am - 6:30pm, Sun. 10am - 6pm, Mon. 10am - 5pm

Lunches: Bring your own or local pub.

A Registration Letter incl. Travel directions will be sent on receipt of your application.

**TONALIS, 4 Castle Farm Close, Leighterton, GLOS, GL8 8UY**

## Application Form - The Celtic Choir

Please email your booking details to [info@tonalismusic.co.uk](mailto:info@tonalismusic.co.uk) and pay your fee into the Tonalis Music Centre account: Sort Code 08-92-50, Acc. 68684633

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

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

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like an ACCOMMODATION list of local hosts (c.£22/night)?