



iTONE UP!

Encounter the sublime music of Tallis, Byrd, and contemporaries,
learn to read from the original notation in the Dow Partbooks,
and be inspired by the beautiful surroundings of

The Old Monastery, Stroud
RESIDENTIAL CHORAL COURSE
THU 22 – SUN 25 JAN 2026



¡TONE UP!

¡TONE UP! is a series of ensemble-singing courses and creative residencies led by composer and conductor and William Byrd Fellow, Antony Pitts, the founder of TONUS PEREGRINUS and former Artistic Director of The Song Company. These courses are aimed at anyone interested in toning up their ensemble-singing and choral skills, and are tailored to a range of musical abilities and experience, from student and community singers to experienced professionals.

Antony and colleagues share their experience conducting, singing, composing and editing a wide range of a *cappella* repertoire from the last thousand years.

- Enhance your ensemble-singing skills, especially intonation, rhythm, and text
- Expand your singing network and make new musical friends
- Gain historical insight into the music of the Renaissance
- Learn to read Renaissance polyphony from the original notation in its authentic setting
- Get the composer perspective on music for voices
- Invite friends & family to hear newly learnt repertoire on the final day

residential choral course (NSW):

The Old Monastery, Stroud

Thu 22 – Sun 25 January 2026

how to apply:

www.tonus.au/toneup-residential

TONUS AUSTRALIS

Emerging from the acclaimed British ensemble TONUS PEREGRINUS, TONUS AUSTRALIS is a new class of vocal ensemble at the centre of a network of consorts and choirs around Australia, working one-to-a-part in small groups and then combining in concert. TONUS AUSTRALIS is led by visionary artistic director Antony Pitts, known as much for his evocative choral compositions as for his unique programming and conducting approach.

ANTONY PITTS

I have always sung – as a boy in the Chapel Royal, and later founding TONUS PEREGRINUS while an undergraduate at New College, Oxford. I came with my family to Australia to lead The Song Company as Artistic Director for seven years, and am now the William Byrd Fellow & Ambassador at Excelsia University College. I always aim to inspire confidence and bring out the best in everyone I work with. I love sharing my specialist musical knowledge, unique approach to historically informed performance from original notation, and diverse and extensive performance and recording experience – and helping emerging artists, and amateur and professional singers alike to refine and upgrade their skills.

Sing the music of Tallis & Byrd from 16th-century partbooks at The Old Monastery

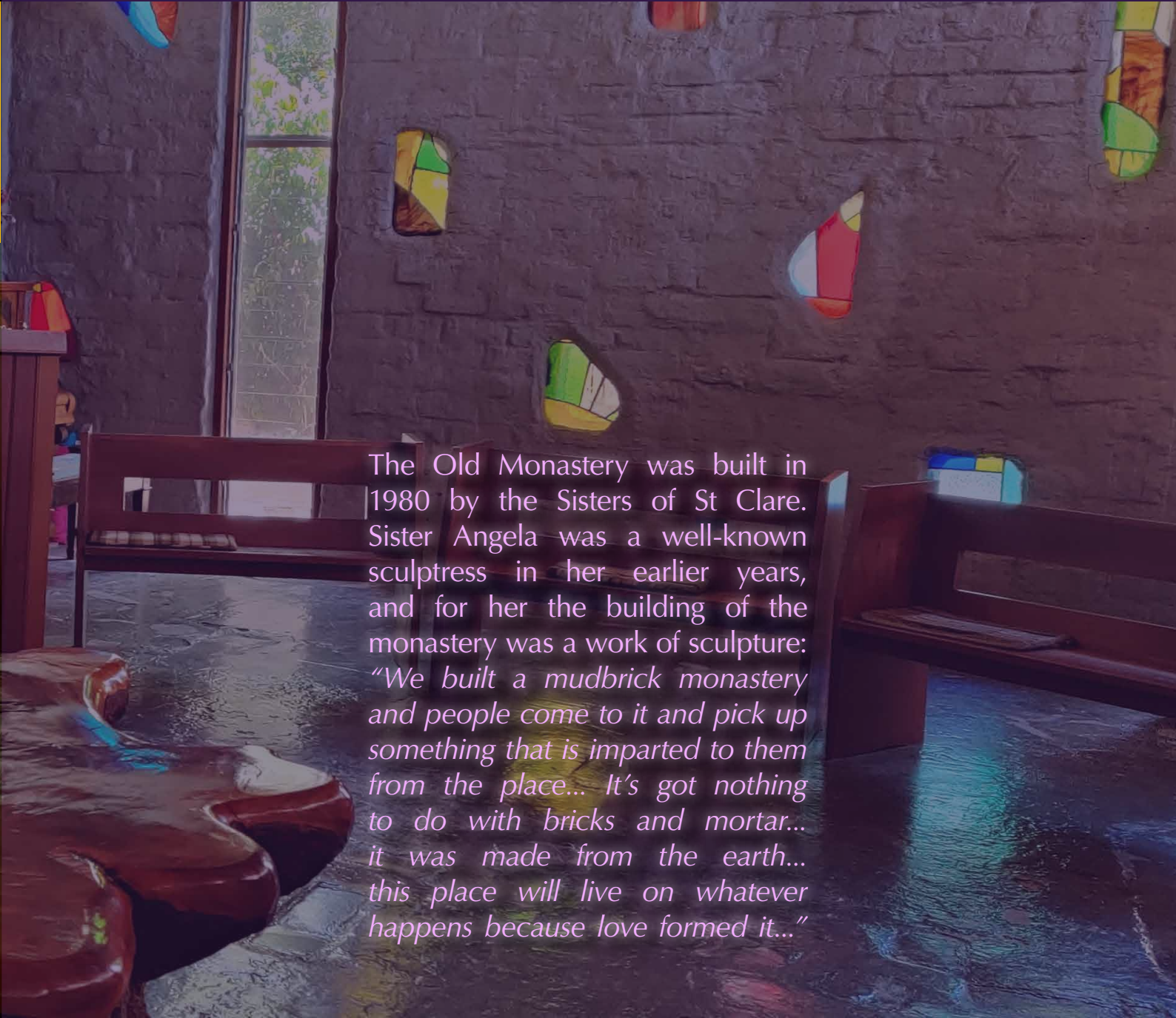
Join us to explore the magnificent vocal polyphony of Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, and their contemporaries. Learn to read the original notation from the Dow Partbooks and other Renaissance manuscript facsimiles. Encounter anew the sublime music of Tudor England within the unique and beautiful surroundings of The Old Monastery, Stroud.

Staying at Stroud is being part of a family – dinners are an important communal experience and may also include music-making. Culinary companions interested in leading the catering activities (everyone is expected to take part and to help) are also welcome.

Full price: \$680 | Returning resident: \$544 | Scholarship place: \$340

Culinary companion: \$420 | Creative residency (by invitation): \$510

Price includes rustic accommodation in single rooms (BYO sheets, pillowslips, towels, toiletries), breakfast essentials, communal dinner, all music scores and ensemble tuition for singers. We start around 10.30am on Thursday and finish around 4pm on Sunday. It is possible to stay at The Old Monastery on both Wednesday and Sunday nights.

The background image shows the interior of The Old Monastery. It features a rustic, mudbrick wall with several small, irregularly shaped windows. Each window is filled with a piece of colorful, abstract stained glass. The floor is made of polished stone tiles. In the foreground, there are wooden benches and a large, dark, polished wooden table. The lighting is warm and natural, coming from the windows.

The Old Monastery was built in 1980 by the Sisters of St Clare. Sister Angela was a well-known sculptress in her earlier years, and for her the building of the monastery was a work of sculpture: *"We built a mudbrick monastery and people come to it and pick up something that is imparted to them from the place... It's got nothing to do with bricks and mortar... it was made from the earth... this place will live on whatever happens because love formed it..."*



Be part of our idyllic residential ¡TONE UP!:

The Old Monastery, Stroud, NSW
Thu 22 – Sun 25 January 2026

Apply and/or register interest for future courses:

www.tonus.au/toneup-apply-old-monastery

"Thoroughly enjoyed the three days. I came away feeling enriched and inspired, with the choice of music being challenging and satisfying. Can't recommend TONUS AUSTRALIS highly enough."
(Jess Ciampa, participant in ¡TONE UP! at Excelsia College, January 2024)

"A truly unforgettable experience, both as to learning and enjoyment. Antony's knowledge and experience stood out clearly, as did his patience. I would be happy to recommend the workshop and thoroughly enjoyed the company and the enthusiasm of everyone who took part."
Bob Jordan, participant in the inaugural ¡TONE UP! January 2023

"We were honoured to have Antony Pitts as our headline conductor at the 5th Australian Jewish Choral Festival in June 2022. Engaging and highly skilled, his deep musical knowledge in diverse genres drew forth dimensions of performance the participants thought to be beyond their reach. He achieved miraculous results for the closing concert, in just two days of intensive work with choral groups across the spectrum of skill levels. It was a privilege to work with him."
Judy Campbell, Festival Artistic Director

"Antony's ability to harness art forms such as sacred song... and breathe new life into them via his compositional, production and conducting gifts is exceptional to behold, but equally matched by the gifts he possesses in breathing new life into the souls of hesitant and shattered artists, creating inspiring worlds in which potential can be truly revealed."
Fi Peel, Lived Experience Mental Health Recovery Collaborator

"I thought, well, this is something I really want to be involved in – because with Antony... you really learn a lot!" Peter Woolf, 2022 Australian Jewish Choral Festival Singer

