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Coming of Age

Samling Artists tenor Luis Gomes, soprano Rowan Pierce, baritone Johannes Kammler, mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphanie and Samling Patron baritone Sir Thomas Allen perform at Samling's Viennese Gala.



Mezzo-soprano Svetlina Stoyanova and Samling leader baritone Roderick Williams



Soprano Charlie Drummond and Samling leader soprano Yvonne Kenny



Baritone Dominic Sedgwick and Samling leader pianist Christopher Glynn

It's been a busy few months at Samling, from gala performances and masterclasses to auditions and concert planning.

We kicked off 2017 with a 'Coming of Age' gala concert in February celebrating Samling's 21 years. The evening featured performances by four returning Samling Artists (soprano Rowan Pierce, mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphanie, tenor Luis Gomes and baritone Johannes Kammler) alongside our Patron Sir Thomas Allen, Samling Academy Singers and the full forces of Royal Northern Sinfonia under conductor Nicholas Chalmers. The programme featured the 'smash hits' of Viennese opera, with music by Mozart, Strauss II and Lehár. Critic David Whetstone of *The Journal* called it a 'sparkling, fun-filled concert' with an 'atmosphere of *bonhomie*' where 'the best moments were when the youngest performers came to the fore.'

In March we were joined for the first time by renowned British baritone Roderick Williams, soprano Yvonne Kenny and pianist Christopher Glynn who led our Samling Artist Programme. They worked intensively with six singers and two pianists over the course of the week, and the culminating public masterclass and concert at Sage Gateshead demonstrated the singers' appreciable growth since beginning their week at Samling. As soprano Charlotte Trepess summarised, 'I've never had such an enriching, supportive and exciting artistic experience, and feel incredibly lucky to have been a part of it.'

April saw concerts featuring six Samling Artists with Royal Northern Sinfonia under the baton of Nicholas McGegan in two performances of *Israel in Egypt* at Durham Cathedral and Sage Gateshead.

As Gavin Engelbrecht of *The Northern Echo* wrote in his review, Handel's glorious oratorio was 'conveyed in vivid broadbrush colours ... the musical canvas studded with scintillating singing by six young Samling Artist soloists.'

Spring continued to keep Samling staff on their toes with nearly 200 auditions held in March, April and May, on a recommendation basis only, for both the Academy and Artist Programme. The auditions took place over the course of nine days in London, Glasgow, Newcastle and Durham.

We're now in the final stages of preparing for Samling Academy's summer concerts, *When I was one-and-twenty*, which will see us return to The Witham at Barnard Castle and our favourite seaside venue at Saltburn-by-the-Sea on 19 and 21 July, respectively.

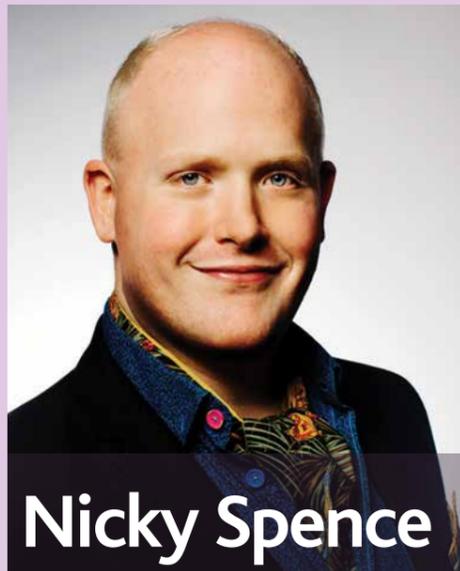
For more details please see [Diary Dates on Page 4](#).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Centre Pages: Samling Alumni Success, New Faces and Farewells, Samling Shorts with Nicky Spence
Back Page: Dates for your diary – book now!

'One of the best and most enjoyable evenings I have ever spent at Sage. It was like a big warm family party!' James Semple (*Samling's Night at the Viennese Opera, February 2017*)

SAMLING SHORTS



Nicky Spence

Nicky Spence is firmly establishing himself as one of today's brightest young tenors. A Samling Artist in 2006, his unique skills as a singing actor and the rare honesty in his musicianship are steadfastly earning him a place at the top of the profession. A strong ambassador of Samling over the years, Nicky will join the Samling Academy leadership team in October and will sing at Samling's annual Wigmore Hall showcase in November. We caught up with the busy singer in this 'Samling Shorts' Q&A.

Last piece of music I listened to was...

The Antiques Roadshow theme tune...
odd, I know! One of my best pals made me a mixed tape recently & we used to sing it in class.
I know, I'm a headbanger!

Dream role you have yet to sing?

In my wildest dreams I'd sing Anita from West Side Story cos she has the most attitude. Closer to reality, Peter Grimes is the ultimate!

Three carry-on essentials?

- * Rose noise cancelling headphones. I ♡ babies but not at 40,000 ft. (I'm not King Herod!)
- * Ajoop Rosepetal & Bergamot Peel Hydration spray (Yes, I'm that person!)
- * Self-esteem & an open mind
- self-esteem for if your limbs spill into your neighbours area.
- an open mind to being upgraded to 1st class on arrival.

Beatles or Stones?

Beatles all day long... my Dad used to play old Beatles tapes on the guitar when I was wee... Here, there & everywhere is my fave.

If I wasn't a singer, I'd be...

I'd be a dancer... I adore it & I can move quite well despite looking like Breeze block!  is a fantasy of mine...

Most underrated opera?

'Hugh the Drover' by Vaughan-Williams. Were too busy staging crazy quater-tone sagas in the night & forgot some beautiful homegrown works!

When I have the day off I...

Dans off are Gold Dust & they're usually devoted to pals, family, food, unrealizable pets & food!

Favourite Samling memory?

Beyond the learning, music making & friends in such a unique atmosphere, I remember going for a run (shows how long ago that was) around the local country lanes & on realising I might be late for tea (also amazing), I took a short cut over the ancient garden wall which duly collapsed under my enthusiasm!! This is like atonement... I'm not sure if anyone knew that... x (sorry.)

The Samling family welcomes new faces

We're thrilled to welcome three new members to the Samling family.

John Pennie, who recently retired as partner at Bond Dickinson LLP, has joined Samling as a trustee. 'I'm excited to be part of an organisation with a track record of nurturing young people in the North East which thrives entirely from its own resources and resourcefulness,' he said.

We are also delighted to have two new staff members join the Samling team: Creative Development Manager Peter Keenan and General Manager Claire Morley.

Peter, who joined Samling in November 2016, read music at the University of York before undertaking postgraduate research into Mozart's da Ponte operas at the University of Glasgow. Peter is also founder

and Music Director of Opera dei Lumi, an opera company specialising in music of the Enlightenment. 'Joining Samling has been and continues to be extremely exciting. The opportunity to become involved with such a special and unique provision of education for young artists was incredibly attractive to me. Since starting in November I have enjoyed taking on a variety of roles that can be both demanding and rewarding, and with brilliant colleagues, it makes for a really interesting and fulfilling job,' he said.

Claire started at Samling in January 2017. With over ten years' experience in arts management and classical music in her native Canada, she's thrilled to have joined Samling at what she deems a very exciting time for the organisation. 'Coming on board at this time in Samling's evolution is great -



John Pennie, Peter Keenan and Claire Morley join the Samling team.

I'm proud to be working for an organisation with such an enviable international reputation that has established itself as one of the most supportive institutions for young classical singers. I am grateful to be part of a team that will lead Samling into its next phase of development and growth,' Claire said.

Congratulations

From national prize winners and competition finalists to special honours and new recordings, here's a snapshot of just a few Samling alumni's recent accomplishments

'I really wouldn't have believed in myself enough were it not for Samling and its continued support.' Timothy Charles Langston Samling Artist 2015



The very first concert at Samling was given by mezzo-soprano Katarina Karnéus and poet Tony Harrison, shortly after Katarina had won Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. We are delighted that, 21 years on, no fewer than four Samling Artists have been chosen as finalists in this year's competition. They are:

- Soprano Louise Alder Samling Artist 2013 (England)
 - Soprano Anush Hovhannisyan Samling Artist 2014 (Armenia)
 - Mezzo-soprano Catriona Morison Samling Artist 2013 (Scotland)
 - Bass-baritone Dominic Barberi Samling Artist 2014 (England)
- You can watch and listen to all four, in addition to the other finalists, on BBC Four.

The Bruce Millar Gulliver Prize

In March soprano Charlie Drummond (Samling Artist 2017) won the Bruce Millar Gulliver Prize. The competition took place at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in March and was adjudicated by staff from the National Opera Studio, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera. Charlie joins a number of Samling Artists who have won this prestigious annual award, including Lucy Crowe, Kathryn Rudge, Nicky Spence, Luis Gomes, Jonathan Lemalu and David Butt Philip.

Royal College of Music President's Award

We are thrilled that soprano Rowan Pierce, Samling Artist 2016 and former Samling Academy Singer, has been given the President's Award at the Royal College of Music. Rowan was awarded this for her exceptional contribution to promoting the work of the Royal College of Music in the wider community. She was presented the award by HRH Prince Charles in March.



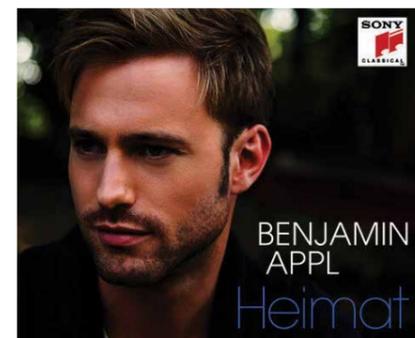
National Mozart Singing Competition 2017

Former Samling Academy student Clare Tunney won 1st Prize in the National Mozart Singing Competition in February. Clare is from the North East and before going to the Royal Academy of Music she studied singing with Samling Artist and Samling Academy Leader Miranda Wright. In addition to 1st Prize overall, Clare also won the Art Song Prize category. Somi Kim (Samling Artist 2015 and 2017) also won the Accompanist Prize, Audience Prize and 2nd Prize overall for her performance with Richard Walshe in the competition.



Heimat

Benjamin Appl (Samling Artist 2011) released his debut CD with Sony Classical in March accompanied by James Baillieu (Samling Artist 2009). The CD predominantly features music by Brahms and Schubert which falls into Appl's chosen theme: *Heimat*, which is a German word for roots, belonging and longing. *Heimat* was made Gramophone Magazine's Editor's Choice in March and continues to receive exceptional acclaim.



A Fond Farewell

Since co-founding Samling in 1996, trustee Roger McKechnie has been an integral part of the Samling family and it is with all good wishes that we bid him farewell as he retires from the Samling board. An entrepreneurial businessman in the North East, his professional accomplishments are many.

'We will miss Roger's spirited presence at Samling. I would like to thank him for all that he has given over the years, and especially for his generous hospitality hosting Samling's annual Party in the Garden, which became one of Tynedale's summer highlights,' said Samling's Executive and Artistic Director Karon Wright. 'We wish him and his wife Eileen all the very best for the future.'



SAMLING ACADEMY SUMMER CONCERTS

When I was one-and-twenty

Young Love, Heartbreak and
Wisdom Gained



Young love takes many forms. Journey through the hopeful innocence of first love to the heartbreak of unrequited love, and the wisdom gained through experience in this concert featuring some of the most beautiful music ever written. Directed by Samling Artist Miranda Wright, this performance from some of the region's most talented young singers will be interspersed with poetry, including AE Housman's 'When I was one-and-twenty'.



To include songs by Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Fauré and Britten, accompanied by Samling Artist pianist Ian Tindale.

Wednesday 19 July, 7.30pm

The Witham, Barnard Castle

www.thewitham.org.uk | 01833 631 107

Friday 21 July, 7.30pm

Saltburn Community Theatre

www.saltburnarts.co.uk | 01287 624 997

Tickets £12 | £10 student / concession



SAMLING ACADEMY

13–15 and 27–29 October

Starting the new academic year with six days intensive training, 30 singers (aged 14–21), selected by audition, will be given the opportunity to work with Samling's world-class team of artists, coaches and experts, which this year includes:



Caroline Dowdle – Music Director
Patricia MacMahon – Vocal Teacher
Miranda Wright – Samling Artist and Vocal Teacher
Nicky Spence – Samling Artist and Tenor
Mandy Demetriou – Movement Coach and Choreographer
Actor to be announced



And pianists, Samling Artists:

James Baillieu
Lana Bode
Jâms Coleman
Jean-Paul Pruna (and Language Coach)
Ian Tindale
Jonathan Ware

Samling Academy Concert

Sunday 29 October, 7.30pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Comprised of some of the most talented young singers from across the North East, this year's Samling Academy Singers perform a mix of opera and song in this special concert that showcases their hard work over six days of workshops and masterclasses.

Tickets £14

Available from Sage Gateshead
www.sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



WIGMORE SHOWCASE

Seasons in the Mind of Men

Thursday 9 November, 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall, London

Lauren Fagan soprano
Rowan Pierce soprano
Bianca Andrew mezzo-soprano
Nicky Spence tenor
Milan Siljanov bass-baritone
James Baillieu piano
Ian Tindale piano
Actor to be announced

Once again Samling presents its annual Showcase as part of Wigmore Hall's prestigious Song Series. In this intimate concert inspired by the four seasons, you will hear what BBC Radio 3 presenter Sean Rafferty has elegantly described as 'the bright, emerging talent of the future, touched with genius.'

Beginning and ending with Spring, that most propitious time of year, Samling's annual showcase explores the transience and beauty of the natural world through the seasons. A gathering of Samling Artists from over the years present mankind's response in song and the spoken word.

Programme:

Schubert An den Frühling; Frühlingsglaube; Am Bach im Frühling; Frühlingslied; Der Winterabend
Mendelssohn Maiglöckchen und die Blümlein
Schumann Liebesgarten **Brahms** Sommerabend; Herbstgefühl **Wolf** Nun ist es Herbst, die Blätter fallen
Strauss September; Winterweihe; Winterliebe
Vaughan Williams Silent Noon **Butterworth** Bredon Hill
Warlock The Cricketers of Hambleton; Autumn twilight
Beach Ah, love, but a day! **Quilter** Autumn Evening; It was a Lover and his Lass **Britten** Autumn; At day-close in November
Argento Winter Head
Love's Lament **Ireland** Spring Sorrow **Gurney** Spring
Monckton Charming weather **Kern** All the Things You Are
Novello We'll gather lilacs.

Tickets £37 £32 £26 £20 £15

Available from Wigmore Hall Box Office
www.wigmore-hall.org.uk | 020 7935 2141

Dine with the Artists

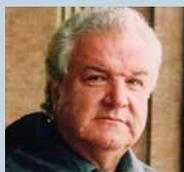
There are a limited number of tickets for best concert seats with a special post-concert sparkling reception and supper with the artists, priced at £95. Available exclusively from Samling on 01434 602885 or by email to enquiries@samling.org.uk.



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 3 – Sunday 10 December

Led by Joan Rodgers CBE, Claudio Desderi and James Baillieu



Samling Masterclass & Concert

Saturday 9 December 2017

1.30pm – 4.30pm and 5.15pm – 6pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Internationally renowned soprano Joan Rodgers CBE is joined by Italian baritone and vocal coach Claudio Desderi along with award-winning pianist James Baillieu to pass on their knowledge and experience to some of the finest emerging classical singers and pianists. This public masterclass is followed by a short concert in which eight Samling Artists show how they have learned from the masters.



Tickets

Masterclass and Concert £16.50
Available from Sage Gateshead
www.sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



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