



## Sensational Season Ahead

Samling Academy  
bass-baritone  
Patrick Owston

**With the season's change we are looking forward to a rich autumn of music making and discovery.**

We begin with welcoming a new cohort of Samling Academy Singers who, following auditions earlier in the year, have been chosen to work with our expert team led by Music Director Caroline Dowdle. From vocal technique and language coaching to acting and movement classes, 30 of the most talented singers from across the North East will come together at Durham and Newcastle Universities for six days of intensive training.

'We are delighted to be able to offer five additional Academy places this year in response to the growing number of young people in the North East who are realising how fulfilling it is to learn to sing classically,' said Samling's Creative

Development Manager Peter Keenan. 'They will learn from our expert team which includes no fewer than six Samling Artist pianists and one of the most in-demand tenors working today, Samling Artist Nicky Spence,' Peter said.

The two weekends culminate in a concert at Sage Gateshead on Sunday 29 October when this year's Academy will present a programme of music and discovery with operatic arias, songs and ensembles including Bach's chorale *Du heilige Brunst*, Mendelssohn's *Abendlied* and 'Il cannone del porto!' from Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

A gathering of seven Samling Artists from across the years will present our annual Showcase on Thursday 9 November as part of Wigmore Hall's Song Series. Beginning and ending with spring, they will explore the transience and beauty of the natural world through the seasons in a

programme of song and readings entitled 'Seasons in the Mind of Men'. A limited number of special tickets that include a sparkling reception and supper with the artists following the concert are available exclusively from Samling.

We end our 21st year with our final Artist Programme residential week in December for eight specially chosen young professional artists. Led by Joan Rodgers CBE and pianist and coach James Baillieu, they will be joined for the first time at Samling by the Italian baritone Claudio Desderi. You can catch up with them all on Saturday 9 December in an afternoon of masterclasses followed by a short concert that never fails to engage and uplift the spirits as the winter nights draw in. We will look forward to seeing you there.

**For more details please see Diary Dates on Page 4**

## Welcome to Claudio Desderi

Renowned Italian baritone Claudio Desderi joins Samling as a Leader for the first time in December. Specialising in the music of Mozart and Rossini, Desderi has regularly appeared with major international institutions including Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera House and the Glyndebourne and Salzburg festivals. He has given masterclasses at Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia,

Conservatoire de Paris, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme and Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago.

'I am very much looking forward to my first visit to Samling, and to guiding these talented young artists at this important stage in their careers.' Claudio Desderi



'It was nothing short of a privilege, certainly a huge pleasure, to join the Samling family and enjoy the opportunity of working intensely with some of the very best young singers and accompanists currently emerging. I felt myself enriched.' Roderick Williams OBE

SAMLING SHORTS



Catriona Morison

Scottish mezzo-soprano and Samling Artist Catriona Morison recently took the opera world by storm when she was crowned winner of the 2017 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Hailed by *The New York Times* for her 'silky, lightly smoky tone, easygoing dramatic flair and unflappable poise', Catriona took a few minutes out of her busy schedule to sit down with us for another instalment of 'Samling Shorts'.

Last piece of music I listened to was...

*Heathens by Twenty One Pilots - this was on a playlist to help motivate me to pack a suitcase!*

Dream role I've yet to sing is...

*I have a long list, but Octavian and Charlotte are at the top.*

My three carry-on essentials are...

- Numidiflyer (yes I know, such a singer's answer, but it really helps)
- Scarf/shawl (I always freeze on planes)
- A book to read (for when I'm not asleep)

If I wasn't a singer, I'd be... *Composer...*  
 If I could have a beer with any composer, alive or dead, it would be with...  
*I recently discovered the French composer and mezzo soprano Pauline Viardot. It'd be fascinating to be able to chat to her about her life.*  
 The most underrated opera is...  
*Dialogues des Carmélites. The music is spine-tinglingly haunting.*  
 When I have the day off I...  
*catch up with friends and catch up on sleep.*  
 Winning Cardiff Singer of the World felt...  
*absolutely incredible, a dream come true, and quite overwhelming but in a positive way.*

My favourite Samling memory...

*I have so many wonderful memories from Samling - the music making, of course, but also taking a lovely chilled walk with my colleagues, and spontaneously and rather hilariously singing through a score of Figaro with everyone one evening.*

Support artists like Catriona by becoming a Friend of Samling

Samling Friends are at the very heart of our creative community. For only £40 per year (or £60 for joint membership), you will directly help Samling support musical excellence in young people through our internationally recognised Artist Programme and our thriving Academy. To learn more about the benefits of becoming a Samling Friend, please contact 01434 602885 or enquiries@samling.org.uk

Samling Academy  
 When I was one-and-twenty...

A.E. Housman's poem, 'When I was one-and-twenty', famously set to music by both George Butterworth and Ivor Gurney, was the inspiration for Samling Academy's summer concerts in July. Staged as a 21st birthday celebration, 14 Academy Singers journeyed through the all-too-complicated emotional landscape that comes with the territory of young love: hope and courtship, rejection and heartbreak, reflection and wisdom gained.

The concerts, at The Witham in Barnard Castle and Saltburn Community Theatre, were directed by Samling Artist Miranda Wright and accompanied by Ian Tindale. The concerts included poetry alongside the works by Brahms, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Handel, Fauré and Vaughan Williams.



Samling Alumni Successes

Samling Shines at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World

In June, no fewer than four Samling Artists competed in the 2017 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition – sopranos Louise Alder and Anush Hovhannisyan, mezzo-soprano Catriona Morison and bass-baritone Dominic Barberi – with two of the singers taking home the big prizes!

Louise won the Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize and Catriona won the Main Prize and Song Prize (see Catriona's Samling Shorts feature above!). We are positively thrilled for all four of these young artists.



Performers prepare to go on stage before the Song Prize competition, including Samling Artists Louise Alder and Catriona Morison (centre). Photo credit @JoeCavalliPrice

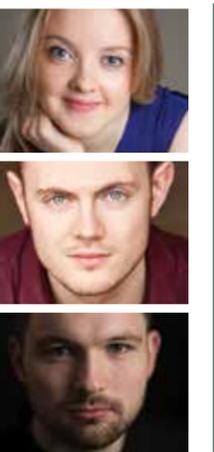
Through Life and Love

Hot on the heels of her success at Cardiff, soprano Louise Alder (Samling Artist 2013) teamed up with pianist Joseph Middleton (Samling Artist 2008) on a new recording of Strauss Lieder: *Through Life and Love*. 'Sung with vivid narrative skill, rich in colour and detail, and with a stunning purity of tone on long notes... Alder is beautifully partnered by pianist Joseph Middleton.' *The Guardian*



Three Samling Artists named Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's Rising Stars

Following an intensive audition process, eight singers were selected to join the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's new Rising Stars programme, which was created to give prominent performance opportunities to young singers. We are delighted that three Samling Artists will be among this coming season's cohort: soprano Rowan Pierce, tenor Nick Pritchard and baritone James Newby.





## SAMLING ACADEMY

### 13 – 15 and 27 – 29 October

Starting the new academic year with six days of intensive training, 30 singers, 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 & Vocal Teacher
Nicky Spence	Samling Artist and Tenor
Mandy Demetriou	Choreographer
Actor	TBA

Samling Artist Pianists:

James Baillieu  
Lana Bode  
Jâms Coleman  
Jean-Paul Pruna  
Ian Tindale  
Jonathan Ware

## Samling Academy Concert

### Sunday 29 October, 7.30pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

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

**Tickets** £14

Available from Sage Gateshead  
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	TBA

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'.

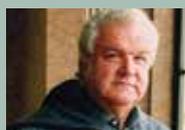
Beginning and ending with Spring, that most propitious time of year, the programme will explore the transience and beauty of the natural world through the seasons. A gathering of Samling Artists from over the years present mankind's response in song and the spoken word.

**Tickets** £37 £32 £26 £20 £15

Available from Wigmore Hall Box Office  
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 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

Internationally renowned leaders in their fields share their expertise with some of the finest emerging classical singers and pianists over two weeks in December and February. Each week culminates with a public masterclass and concert in which the new Samling Artists show how they have learned from the masters.

### Sunday 3 – Sunday 10 December

Led by Joan Rodgers CBE, Claudio Desderi and James Baillieu, Actor TBA

### Masterclass & Concert

Saturday 9 December 2017

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

Louise Fuller	soprano
Claire Lees	soprano
Gemma Lois Summerfield	soprano
Olivia Warburton	mezzo-soprano
Kieran Rayner	baritone
Benson Wilson	baritone
Alastair Chivers	piano
Adam McDonagh	piano

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



### Sunday 18 – Sunday 25 February 2018

Led by Ann Murray DBE and Caroline Dowdle, Actor TBA

### Masterclass & Concert

Saturday 24 February 2018

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

Harriet Burns	soprano
Stephanie Stanway	soprano
Jade Moffat	mezzo-soprano
Tom Smith	tenor
Alexey Gusev	baritone
Marianna Abrahamyan	piano
Gamal Khamis	piano

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



## A Christmas Gift of Music

Give the gift of music this Festive Season by supporting Samling's 2017 Appeal

More details of how you can donate coming soon



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