



Mark Pinder / www.markpinder.eu

Coming of Age

Samling Artists soprano Lauren Fagan and pianist Jâms Coleman taking part in November's Masterclass at Sage Gateshead with course leader Patricia MacMahon and a little bit of help from Samling Academy Singers!

We start our 21st year with a special Gala Concert with Royal Northern Sinfonia and a bevy of Samling Artists from across the years. Joining our Patron Sir Thomas Allen for 'A Night at the Viennese Opera' on Friday 17 February is soprano Rowan Pierce, mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany, tenor Luis Gomes and baritone Johannes Kammler.

Conducted by Nicholas Chalmers, artistic director of Nevill Holt Opera, Samling Academy Singers will also be taking to the Sage One stage, alongside two previous participants of the programme – Charlotte La Thrope and Jordan Carlton – both now studying singing full-time at the Royal College of Music in London.

The programme will celebrate opera from the Austrian capital with the sublime music of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Così fan tutte*, Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* and the evergreen melodies of operetta and Lehár's *Die lustige Witwe*. (Full programme details on our website www.samling.org.uk)

In March we welcome to Samling for the very first time baritone Roderick Williams. He will join Australian soprano Yvonne Kenny and pianist Christopher Glynn to lead eight new Samling Artists following auditions for our Artist Programme last year. A public masterclass on Saturday 11 March followed by a short concert on the same afternoon will showcase the work carried out in private during the week.

Six Samling Artists are soloists – again with Royal Northern Sinfonia – in two performances of Handel's oratorio, *Israel in Egypt*, conducted by Nicholas McGegan. Long hailed as 'one of the finest baroque conductors of his generation' (*The Independent*) and 'an expert in 18th-century style' (*The New Yorker*), Nicholas is recognised for his probing and revelatory explorations of music of all periods. The first performance with Royal Northern Sinfonia Chorus – at Durham Cathedral on Tuesday 11 April – is followed by a second chance to hear Handel's vivid depictions of this epic biblical narrative at Sage Gateshead on Thursday 13 April.

We will be announcing dates for our Academy's summer production very soon, so keep a look out for details on our website and on social media.

In October we will kick-start the next academic year for our Academy with six days of intensive training over two weekends. Vocal masterclasses and tuition, workshops in acting and movement and language coaching will culminate in Sage Two on Sunday 29 October when twenty-five Academy Singers will share what they have been working on in concert.

Thursday 9 November sees us back at Wigmore Hall for our annual Showcase before our final Artist Programme week of the year. Following auditions in May in London and Glasgow, we will invite eight new and outstanding emerging artists to spend a week with us and then share what they have learned in a public masterclass and concert at Sage Gateshead on Saturday 9 December.

'We are looking forward to a year of exceptional music making, discovery and opportunity,' said Samling's director Karon Wright. 'Having reached this 21st milestone I do believe "the best is yet to be",' she said.

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Centre Pages: Anna Stéphany Looks Back, Samling Friends, Academy News, Welcoming Roderick Williams
Back Page: Dates for your diary – book now!

'Thank you VERY much for the really quite stunning 'Samling Masterclass' afternoon at Sage Gateshead... Quite frankly, it was one of the best musical events I or my family have ever attended.' Russell Fairless

GUEST COLUMN



Anna Stéphany in the role of Siebel in Gounod's *Faust* at Opera House Zurich

Anna Stéphany

In the second of a series of guest columns by Samling Artists, mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany discusses her memories of her time with Samling and the effect the experience has had since she attended our Artist Programme in 2005.

There is really nothing else like Samling out there. Singing is a very personal thing and requires a deep understanding of the self and an understanding of how to communicate emotions with others. All this takes a lot of exploration and trial and error: the only atmosphere in which to do that is a safe, fun and supportive one and Samling provides exactly that.

I was lucky enough to benefit from the teaching of Della Jones, Paul Farrington,

Caroline Dowdle and Simon Over and I have fond memories of sitting round the fire together after the day's work was done sharing recitations of Shakespeare and poetry. There were also further moments of inspiration and learning as the actors Richard Pasco and Barbara Leigh Hunt were with us that week and they shared with us their poignant interpretations of the texts.

I would recommend every student out there given the opportunity of an audition for Samling to seize it and to benefit from being part of this lovely family!

I am hugely excited to be performing at the Sage again for the 'Coming of Age' Gala, especially with Sir Thomas Allen, having worked with him at the Bolshoi Theatre in

Moscow. Being a North East girl it is always a pleasure to perform near home and Sage One is stunning.

I have just finished performing the role of Romeo in Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* at Zurich Opera House, and I am currently singing the role of Octavian in Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; both trouser roles which is something I love doing!

Anna appears with three other Samling Artists, Sir Thomas Allen, Royal Northern Sinfonia and Samling Academy Singers in A Night at the Viennese Opera, our 'Coming of Age' Gala on Friday 17 February at Sage Gateshead. Tickets are currently on sale at www.sagegateshead.com 0191 443 4661. For more details see Diary Dates on Page 4 of this Newsletter.

Photo: T + T.

Academy News

All twenty-five of our Academy Singers responded in full to our evaluation of six days of intensive workshops and performance in October.

'We are delighted with the results,' said Mary Emmett, who conducted the research. 'Every year we seek detailed feedback on Academy Singers' experience and five years into the programme they gave, once again, a ringing endorsement of the value of their learning experience with us,' she said.

The Samling Academy Weekends took place on 7-9 and 21-23 October led by music director Caroline Dowdle. Patricia MacMahon, Miranda Wright, and Samling Artist pianists

Samling Academy 2016-2017



Mark Pinder / www.markpinder.eu



Italian language coach Rosalba Lo Duca with baritone Jordan Appleton and Samling Artist, pianist Jonathan Ware, Samling Academy October 2016

Jonathan Ware, Ian Tindale, Somi Kim and Jâms Coleman joined her to support the work. 'Actor Madeleine Hyland worked on stagecraft over the first three days at Durham University and we were delighted that Samling Artist Lisa Milne, who took part in the very first Artist Programme week twenty years ago, joined us in Newcastle University for the second weekend when our Patron Sir Thomas Allen also joined us for an afternoon and gave a fascinating talk about his life,' Mary said.

Academy Singers particularly singled out in their evaluation how much they had benefitted from the work of movement coach and choreographer Mandy Demetriou,

and working on their Italian with language coach Rosalba Lo Duca, in preparation for the concert showcasing their work in the Northern Rock Foundation Hall at Sage Gateshead on 23 October.

'I've loved meeting like-minded people, and finally feeling like I fit in,' said Academy Singer Zoë Jackson. 'I spoke to a number of other singers who, at school, felt excluded due to their passions, so being in the environment where everyone has a similar dream really pushed me and consolidated the idea of singing being what I really want to do,' she said.

Samling Friends

At this time of year we like to, not only thank all of our Friends and supporters, but also highlight the importance of your continuing support. Whether it is through giving to our on-going '20th Anniversary Appeal' or the 'Big Give Christmas Challenge' online, we value greatly all your generous contributions and the gifts made over the past year.

Following our Artist Programme week in November, we received this letter from Samling Friend Keith Stead and it summed up so much of the feedback that we regularly receive from audiences that we would like to share it with you in full.

'As regular Samling followers, my wife and I attended the November Masterclass and Concert at Sage Gateshead on

26 November. What a memorable experience that was! And what enormous talent we were treated to! It seems a cliché to say that each Samling week and each performance gets better and better, but the perception is that it certainly does.

The masterclass input was fascinating to observe, and the immediate improvements on each singer's delivery simply a joy to behold. We feel so privileged to be given access to such an intimate and profoundly impactful awakening process. Not only that, but the realisation that we were listening to the voices of stars in the making was humbling. Samling is providing that invaluable catalyst for change in the lives of these brilliant young singers, and we are proud to have been able to make our own small contribution as supporters, something we will continue to do - with enthusiasm and eager anticipation of what the future has in store.'



Christopher Glynn, Samling Artist Nick Pritchard and Samling Friend Jean Thompson

We have significant challenges ahead in order to continue to provide opportunities to young people to learn from and work alongside great artists, teachers and coaches. But with your help we can do it!

If you know someone who you think might like to join Samling Friends please do put them in touch with us. Signing up couldn't be easier, just call us to request a joining form or, if you would prefer to join online, please visit: www.samling.org.uk/friends

Welcoming Roderick Williams to Samling

Roderick Williams, who won the Singer of the Year Award in the 2016 Royal Philharmonic Society Awards, came to professional singing relatively late. On leaving Oxford University, where he had a choral scholarship, he taught music for a few years in London before deciding to study full-time at the age of 28 at the Guildhall School of Music.

Professional roles from Purcell to Puccini, from Mozart to Maxwell Davies have brought Roderick ever-greater international success and he is now one of the UK's most celebrated and versatile singers. His numerous recordings include Vaughan Williams, Berkeley and Britten operas for Chandos and an extensive repertoire of English song with pianist Iain Burnside for Naxos.

'We are very excited that Roderick has accepted our invitation to join us in March to

lead our Samling Artist Programme,' said director Karon Wright. 'I feel very sure that our eight new Samling Artists are going to have a terrific week,' she said. 'As a composer with works premiered at the Wigmore and Barbican Halls, the Purcell Room and live on national radio, I think he will bring an extra dimension to the week, as well as his bounding enthusiasm and passion for singing,' she said.

'I'm looking forward to this intensive course that will allow us to examine repertoire in real depth, giving us a proper chance to examine all manner of performance technique, a subject close to my heart. The course attracts students of remarkable talent with highly individual skills to offer and I have no doubt I too will share and learn a great deal from working with them. I relish the opportunity to teach at this level.' Roderick Williams



Benjamin Ealovega



SAMLING'S 'COMING OF AGE' GALA

A Night at the Viennese Opera
Friday 17 February, 7.30pm

Sage One, Sage Gateshead

Sir Thomas Allen director
Nicholas Chalmers conductor

Samling Artists:

Rowan Pierce soprano
Anna Stéphaney mezzo-soprano
Luis Gomes tenor
Johannes Kammler baritone

And Samling Academy Singers

Royal Northern Sinfonia

To celebrate Samling's 21st year, Sir Thomas Allen invites you to spend a glamorous evening in Vienna, with a bevy of Samling Artists as our guides. We explore opera in the Austrian capital from the sublime arias of Mozart, to the laughter of Strauss and evergreen melodies of operetta. An unmissable night!

Highlights include *Là ci darem la mano*, *Il mio tesoro* and the Catalogue and Champagne arias from *Don Giovanni*; *Soave sia il vento* from *Così fan tutte*, a duet and aria from *Die Zauberflöte* and *La clemenza di Tito*; the famous Laughing aria and duet *Trinke, Liebchen, trinke schnell* from Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus* and *Da geh' ich zu Maxim*, *Vilja-Lied* and *Lippen schweigen* from Lehár's *Die lustige Witwe*. With orchestral highlights such as overtures to *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Die Fledermaus*, the beautiful Adagio from Mozart's *Gran Partita* and Strauss' *Radetzky March* and *Annen-Polka*.

Tickets £37, £29, £23, £15

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



ISRAEL IN EGYPT

11 April, 8.00pm
Durham Cathedral

13 April 2017, 7.30pm
Sage One, Sage Gateshead

Nicholas McGegan conductor

Samling Artists:

Rowan Pierce soprano
Elin Pritchard soprano
Tim Morgan countertenor
Timothy Charles Langston tenor
Benjamin Lewis baritone
Christopher Nairne baritone

Royal Northern Sinfonia

Chorus of Royal Northern Sinfonia

There has never been a more engaging and dramatic musical depiction of jumping frogs, showers of hailstones, and the parting of the Red Sea than in Handel's choral masterpiece. Experience the epic biblical narrative in vivid musical technicolour!

Tickets Durham Cathedral: £26.88 (Nave); £21.50 (Font); £16.13 (Transept) U18s £5.38 all areas. Sage Gateshead: £37.63, £29.56, £19.89, £12.90
Concessions Available

Available from Sage Gateshead:

www.sagegateshead.com / 0191 443 4661



SAMLING ACADEMY

13–15 and 27–29 October

Starting the new academic year with six days intensive training, 25 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.



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 they will perform a mix of opera and song in a special concert given by this year's Samling Academy Singers.

In partnership with Newcastle University, Durham University and Sage Gateshead.

Tickets go on sale later this year, available from Sage Gateshead.



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 5 – Sunday 12 March

Led by Yvonne Kenny, Roderick Williams and Christopher Glynn.

With Samling Artist Jonathan Ware.

Samling Masterclass & Concert

Saturday 11 March

1.30pm – 4.30pm and 5.15pm – 6.00pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Much-loved baritone Roderick Williams joins Samling for the first time to lead the prestigious Artist Programme, together with Australian soprano Yvonne Kenny and Grammy award-winning pianist Christopher Glynn. This public Masterclass and Concert features eight rising stars of classical music.

Charlie Drummond soprano
Julia Hamon soprano
Charlotte Trepess soprano
Svetlina Stoyanova mezzo-soprano
James Newby baritone
Simon Shibambu bass-baritone
Somi Kim piano
Michael Pandya piano

Tickets Masterclass and Concert £15

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



SAMLING SHOWCASE

Thursday 9 November, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Once again Samling will present its annual Showcase as part of Wigmore Hall's prestigious Song Series. Full programme details will be available from February.

Tickets go on sale later this year, available from Wigmore Hall Box Office.



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 3 – Sunday 10 December

Samling Masterclass and Concert

Saturday 9 December

1.30pm – 4.30pm and 5.15pm – 6.00pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

The climax of Samling's prestigious Artist Programme week when eight new Samling Artists share what they have learned in masterclass followed by a short concert.

Tickets go on sale later this year, available from Sage Gateshead.



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Artistic and Executive Director: Karon Wright |
Registered Charity No: 1112032 | Company No: 05576907



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Please note that all Sage Gateshead ticket sales are subject to a 7.5% handling fee.