



INSTITUTE  
FOR YOUNG  
ARTISTS

news

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Samling Academy Summer Concert 'Come into the Garden'  
Photo: Mark Pinder

## Guiding Stars Supporting the next generation of young musicians

**Samling Institute flourishes because so many of our Samling Artists are committed to passing on their knowledge and experience to those who come after them.**

This year is no exception as we look forward to welcoming back nine Samling Artists to lead six days of intensive workshops for Samling Academy. Among them is tenor Toby Spence, who was part of our first cohort of Samling Artists. Looking back to his own time on the Samling Artist Programme, he told us: 'The Samling course of 1997 taught me the value of detailed preparation and respect for the art song genre. Sir Thomas Allen showed us all how much thought and artistry can be applied to singing. As a group, we enjoyed listening to each other, watching our peers develop and learning from our shared classes. It was an invaluable week on the path to becoming a professional singer.'

Over the years we have seen many strong musical collaborations develop between Samling Artists. Our annual Samling Artist Showcase at London's Wigmore Hall celebrates this spirit of shared music-making by bringing together Samling Artist singers and pianists from different stages of their careers, along with the actor Sir Simon Russell Beale who we are delighted to welcome to Samling Institute for the first time.

This year's Showcase on 8 November continues the 'Come into the Garden' theme from our Samling Academy summer concerts. Soprano Simona Mihai has captivated audiences on the operatic stage and this concert offers a rare opportunity to hear her in song repertoire. Anna Stéphanie is emerging as one of the world's most exciting mezzo-sopranos, who 'radiates warmth and substance' (The Guardian). Tenor Filipe Manu and baritone Dominic Sedgwick are recent Samling Artists, both of whom have been selected for the Royal Opera House's prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme. They are joined by two Samling Artist pianists who are both regulars at Wigmore Hall: Joseph Middleton, described by BBC Music Magazine as 'one of the brightest stars in the world of song,' and the up-and-coming young accompanist and chamber musician Somi Kim.

Our regular cycle of Samling Artist Programme weeks continues in November 2019 and March 2020. In November we welcome a new leader, soprano Anne Schwanewilms, and in March Anna Stéphanie becomes the first Samling Artist singer to return to us as a Samling Artist Programme leader, further reinforcing the links between successive generations of the Samling family.

**For details of all our events and how to obtain tickets, see the Diary Dates on p4.**

## Alumni Success

Samling Artists soprano Samantha Clarke and baritone James Newby were selected for the finals of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Gold Medal, with Samantha Clarke taking the coveted title. In another example of Samling collaboration, she was accompanied by Samling Artist pianist Michael Pandya.

We also send our best wishes to the many Samling Artist singers and pianists taking part in The 2019 Wigmore Hall/Independent Opera International Song Competition, which is taking place as we go to press.



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE** Samling Shorts with Anne Schwanewilms, Samling Academy 'Come into the Garden' Special Appeal for Samling Academy Opera, **Back Page:** Dates for your Diary!

## WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'Samling is the most amazing opportunity for singers to recenter themselves, to gain confidence, to explore opera and song repertoire, to be creative with no merit other than to improve and to connect with music in an ideal environment.' *Samling Artist soprano Alexandra Lowe*

## SAMLING SHORTS



## Anne Schwanewilms

German soprano Anne Schwanewilms is recognised as one of the leading interpreters of the works of Richard Strauss, performing to great acclaim at the world's major opera houses and concert venues.

In concert, she sings works by Berg, Mahler, Strauss, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Schoenberg, Verdi and Wagner. She is considered one of today's finest Lieder recitalists, appearing regularly with Malcolm Martineau, Roger Vignoles and Charles Spencer.

We are delighted that Anne will be joining us as a leader for this autumn's Samling Artist Programme to share her insights into song and opera with the participants over the course of the residential week, and at our public masterclass at Sage Two on 23 November.

### The last piece of music I listened to was...

Jacques Offenbach's wonderful operetta 'The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein' – I will sing the role of the Grand Duchess for the first time in February 2020 in a new production at the Semperoper Dresden. I am very much looking forward to this.

### My three travel essentials are...

I always have my mobile phone, my credit card and my score with me. If there is still room in the suitcase, I pack a book and my own tea strainer so that I can brew my favourite tea everywhere.

### My first musical experience was...

Richard Strauss' 'Elektra'. It shocked me deeply: I wasn't prepared for an opera to be so bloodthirsty and I was really in shock. After that first opera experience, I would have never thought that I would appear on stage myself one day in 'Elektra' as Chrysothemis.

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

A gardener. I love flowers and plants and before my vocal studies I did an apprenticeship as a gardener. If my career as a singer had not worked out, I would have been very happy as a gardener.

### If I could go for a drink with any Strauss character it would be ...

A cup of tea with the Marshaffin ('Der Rosenkavalier') to talk to her about what a wonderful strength of character it is to renounce her love and rejoice in Sophie and Octavian's happiness. I love this role very much, it's an opera character I deeply understand.

### The most underrated opera composer is ...

Franz Schreker. Works such as 'Die Gezeichneten', 'Der ferne Klang' or 'Die Schatzgräber' are performed again these days, but do not have the place in opera repertory that they deserve.

### My most memorable stage experience was ...

'Die Frau ohne Schatten' in 2013 at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. I sang the Empress, the stage directing was by Herbert Wernicke. He had equipped the stage set with a great eye for every detail: there were original tools from the 1940s and many lovingly arranged props. The dimensions of the production were impressive: he used the whole huge space of the opera house and played with it. Being part of this production and this set was an indescribable feeling. I remember it to this day.

### The thing I most enjoy about leading masterclasses is...

working with young singers and being a talent scout. To accompany these young artists and to give them something helpful on their way is a great happiness for me.

Photo: Ken Howard/Metropolitan Opera  
Anne Schwanewilms in the Metropolitan Opera production of *Die Frau ohne Schatten*.

## Make our Garden Grow

Beginning at dawn on a fresh spring morning, our Samling Academy summer concerts followed the life of an imaginary garden through the natural cycle of the days and seasons.

Audiences at The Witham Barnard Castle, Saltburn Community Theatre and Sage Gateshead were enchanted by the joyful performances in this semi-staged 'Come into the Garden' programme.

Directed by Samling Artists Miranda Wright and Ian Tindale, our Academy Singers were given the opportunity to put into practice the training they have received, not only in musical technique but also in stagecraft, singing in other languages and delivering spoken text. The programme ended with an optimistic look to the future with the entire cast singing Bernstein's 'Make our garden grow'.

Samling Academy 'Come into the Garden', Sage Gateshead.  
Photos: Mark Pinder



'Samling Institute ... introduces people of all ages to opera through its Academy productions and gives its Academy Singers invaluable performance experience in unforgettable and imaginative shows.'

*Lyn Shears, The Shears Foundation*

## Funding Appeal for Samling Academy Opera

### Generous match-funding offer will double your support



This autumn sees the launch of a special fundraising appeal for next year's Samling Academy Opera production and we are seeking your support. Are you able to help?

Thanks to a generous commitment to match - pound for pound - the first £10,000 raised, your contribution will go even further to support talented young singers.

This will be the fourth Samling Academy Opera production which gives our Academy Singers the opportunity to experience everything that goes into a professional fully-staged touring production, with movement, dance, lighting, props and costumes. Under the guidance of our experienced directors and production team, they'll learn how to develop a full role and bring a character to life through music, giving them a truly memorable introduction to the life of a professional musician.

Main Image: 2018 Blow *Venus and Adonis* – Lewis Cullen and Ana Fernandez Guerra with the Dunedin Consort.

Above left: 2013: Britten, *Albert Herring* – Rowan Pierce, Polly Leech and Alys Roberts.

We have great plans for next summer's opera and will be sharing all the details with you following our auditions in November and in our next newsletter.

You can donate online at: [samling.org.uk/opera-appeal](http://samling.org.uk/opera-appeal) or by sending a cheque made out to 'Samling Institute for Young Artists' to Samling Institute for Young Artists, Community Centre, Gilesgate, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3NP.

In addition to having your contribution doubled by the match-funding, if you're a UK taxpayer, you can make your donation go even further by completing a gift-aid form.



Above: 2015: Ravel, *L'enfant et les sortilèges* – Alex Banfield and Harriet Beckham.



## SAMLING ACADEMY

4–6 October and 18–20 October

Starting the new academic year with six days of intensive training, 30 young singers selected by audition will be given the opportunity to work with Samling Institute's team of artists, coaches and experts, including:

Caroline Dowdle	Music Director
Patricia MacMahon	Vocal Teacher
Miranda Wright	Samling Artist/Vocal Teacher
Toby Spence	Samling Artist
Mandy Demetriou	Choreographer
James Garnon	Actor

Samling Artist Pianists:

James Baillieu  
Somi Kim  
Michael Pandya  
Jo Ramadan  
Ian Tindale  
Jonathan Ware

### Samling Academy Concert

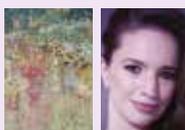
Sunday 20 October, 7.30pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Introducing our 2019/20 Samling Academy, this concert gives our young singers the opportunity to put into practice the performance skills they have been developing, in a programme of song and opera.

**Tickets** £14

Available from Sage Gateshead  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



## SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE

'Come into the Garden'

Friday 8 November, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

This year's Samling Artist Showcase 'Come into the Garden' draws on the rich symbolism of flowers and gardens that has inspired so many great song composers. Presented as part of Wigmore Hall's prestigious Song Recital Series, six Samling Artists share an evening of song, with poetry readings by the distinguished actor Sir Simon Russell Beale.

Simona Mihai	soprano
Anna Stéphany	mezzo-soprano
Filipe Manu	tenor
Dominic Sedgwick	baritone
Joseph Middleton	piano
Somi Kim	piano
Simon Russell Beale	actor

**Tickets** £40 £35 £30 £25 £18

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

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Patron: Sir Thomas Allen CBE  
Artistic and Executive Director: Karon Wright  
Registered Charity No: 1112032 | Company No: 05576907

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## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 17 – Sunday 24 November

Samling Artist Programme is an intense week of coaching and musical discovery that many previous participants have described as 'life-changing'.

The singers and pianists selected for our first programme of 2019/20 are:

Milly Forrest	soprano
Madison Nonoa	soprano
Claire Barnett-Jones	mezzo-soprano
Beth Taylor	mezzo-soprano
Michael Daub	baritone
Paul Grant	baritone
Domonkos Csabay	piano
Ella O'Neill	piano

### Samling Masterclass & Concert

Saturday 23 November

1.30 – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6.15pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Take a look behind the scenes of classical music as our eight new Samling Artists polish their musical and dramatic skills, led by soprano Anne Schwanewilms, pianist James Baillieu and actor James Garnon, and supported by staff pianist Somi Kim. Find out what goes into making a world-class performance and pick up tips from these masters of song, opera and theatre that you can use in your own singing, listening or public speaking. The masterclass is followed by a short concert, giving you the chance to see the future stars of classical music.

**Tickets** Masterclass and Concert £16.50

£5 (unders 25s)

Available from Sage Gateshead  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 1 – Sunday 8 March 2020

Mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany returns to Samling Institute as a programme leader, the first Samling Artist singer to do so, completing the cycle of growth and nurturing that is at the core of Samling Institute's values. She is joined by a leadership team that includes pianist Caroline Dowdle.

### Samling Masterclass & Concert

Saturday 7 March

1.30 – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6.15pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Catrin Woodruff	soprano
Lotte Betts-Dean	mezzo-soprano
Katherine Aitkin	mezzo-soprano
Liam Bonthron	tenor
Nick Mogg	baritone
Ed Jowle	baritone
Gary Beecher	piano
Camille Lemonnier	piano

**Tickets** Masterclass and Concert £16.50

£5 (unders 25s)

Available from Sage Gateshead  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661

During the year, we hold additional events for supporters of Samling Institute and members of our Friends' scheme, giving you the chance to meet Samling Artists and Academy Singers, and hear them perform in intimate settings.

To find out more, please come and talk to us at one of our public concerts, or contact us at enquiries@samling.org.uk or 01434 602885.