



INSTITUTE  
FOR YOUNG  
ARTISTS

news

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Samling Academy Singers soprano Tia Radix-Callixte and baritone Patrick Owston with Royal Northern Sinfonia at 'RNS LIVE! Set Works', a concert for GCSE and A-Level music students. Photo: TyneSight Photographic

## The future of opera

We begin a new decade with rehearsals for a twenty-first century opera by one of this country's most exciting composers. Announcing the return of Samling Academy Opera this summer, we've chosen Jonathan Dove's sparkling chamber opera adaptation of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*.

Dove's engaging music and Alasdair Middleton's libretto draw on the elegant world of Regency England and, like the novel itself, the opera deftly combines sharply observed comedy with touching insights into the human heart. With a good number of equally balanced roles and music that is suitable for young voices with a piano duet accompaniment, *Mansfield Park* is an ideal piece for Samling Academy's fourth opera production.

Dove wrote *Mansfield Park* with country house opera stagings in mind and so it gives us great pleasure to take our production to the Ryedale Festival in Yorkshire, where it will be presented in the elegant surroundings of Birdsall House, along with performances at The Witham, Barnard Castle in County Durham and at Sage Gateshead.

### Samling Artist Programme

In March we welcome back the acclaimed mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphanie to lead our Samling Artist Programme's week-long residential course. Anna, who became a Samling Artist in 2005, is the first singer to return to us

to lead the programme that she herself benefitted from. She will be joined by Caroline Dowdle of the Royal Opera House and actor James Garnon. You can catch all three as they coach, challenge and inspire eight emerging artists in a public masterclass at Sage Gateshead on 7 March, which is followed by a short concert showcasing the work that has been going on in private all week.

Spring is also audition season for Samling Institute, as we review a first round of online applications for our Artist Programme for emerging young professional singers and pianists. With around 200 applications annually on a recommendation basis for just sixteen places, competition is tough. Live auditions are then scheduled over five days in London and Glasgow in March and April when our panel will hear around 100 singers and pianists.

### Samling Futures

We are also looking forward to auditions for Samling Academy 2020/21 in March and are hoping that a new initiative, through our 'Samling Futures' scheme, will help spread the word about all that our Academy has to offer talented young singers across the North East. 'With multiple school visits to state schools and a programme of masterclasses and performances planned,' said creative development manager Peter Keenan,

'we are hoping that this will encourage more young singers to sing classically and audition for our Academy.'

In October we are delighted that our Academy Singers will have the privilege of working with the renowned soprano Joan Rodgers CBE who is joining the leadership team for the first time. 'Samling Academy has made a huge difference to aspiring young performers in the North East, giving priceless guidance, tuition and encouragement,' she said. 'When I was a young singer growing up in Cumbria this sort of programme would have been a godsend. Now the opera singers of the future do not need to leave the region to pursue their studies at a formative stage.'

**For more details of this coming year's programme of events please see page 4.**

### Please Support

Samling Institute does not receive statutory or regular funding and has no endowment. Our work thrives through the support of trusts and foundations and especially private individuals.

If you are in the position to, please consider supporting our work. Your generosity will go far in helping brilliant young people reach their true potential.

For more information please visit [samling.org.uk](http://samling.org.uk), email us at [enquiries@samling.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@samling.org.uk) or call the Samling Institute office on 01434 602885.

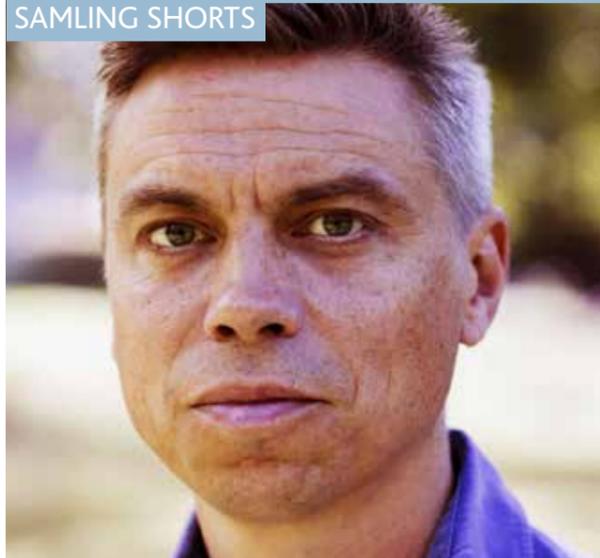
**INSIDE THIS ISSUE** Samling Shorts with James Garnon, Alumni Success, Wigmore Hall Showcase, Samling Academy and Samling Artist Programme **Back page: Dates for your diary!**

## WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'Samling has been a life changing experience... I've been talking so much about it for the past few weeks to my friends that they're talking about it too.'

Joël Terrin, baritone, Samling Artist Programme November 2019

### SAMLING SHORTS



## James Garnon

James Garnon trained at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and Edinburgh University. He has performed in over twenty productions at Shakespeare's Globe, most recently as Touchstone in *As You Like It* and in the title role in *Pericles* in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. He has also frequently acted for the Royal Shakespeare Company, was a founder member of The Factory Theatre Company and has performed at numerous other theatres including the Old Vic and Almeida Theatre and on film and TV.

#### My first memory of the theatre was ...

One of jealousy. I didn't know what a play was but immediately knew I wanted to be in one rather than watch one... Nothing's changed.

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

Mercutio or Celia? Both are witty, wise, relatively without vice and, unlike most of the others, as interested listeners as they are talkers.

#### One poem I think everyone in the world should read is ...

Right now - 'Say not the struggle naught availeth' by Arthur Hugh Clough - Stephen Pinker's 'Enlightenment Now' in sixteen lines.

#### My favourite way to pass the time on train journeys is ...

To watch people (and photograph them and attach a poem to the picture that it inspires and then post it all on Instagram - but this is a secret).

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

The Fitzwilliam String Quartet 1981 Shostakovich recordings are on the record player now. We recently inherited my father-in-law's entire vinyl collection which we lucky-dip but, I'll admit, Shostakovich has been there a while... He makes me laugh as much as he moves me.

#### My best Samling memory is ...

As impossible to choose as picking out a favourite suftana in a cake you relish. Every time I visit there are things I see and hear I want to hold on to.

#### I enjoy working with singers because ...

I respect them so utterly. Helping brave, dedicated, rarefied artists is simply a privilege.

#### The most exciting thing about working with young people is ...

Watching their willingness to do things they haven't mastered - their courage, their trust, their readiness to 'try' inspires and sends you back to your own work reinvigorated to dare...



## Samling Artist Programme

In a lively afternoon at Sage Two an appreciative audience were treated to a fascinating exploration of vocal music ranging from the Baroque to the twentieth century. The public masterclass was led by soprano Anne Schwanewilms, pianist James Baillieu and actor James Garnon, with eight new Samling Artists taking part – sopranos Milly Forrest and Madison Nonoa, mezzo-sopranos Claire Barnett-Jones and Beth Taylor, baritones Paul Grant and Joël Terrin and pianists Domonkos Csabay and Ella O'Neill.

Photos: Mark Pinder

'I particularly enjoyed the huge sense of positivity, optimism and enthusiasm that was present in every person there – it created a great atmosphere for learning, trying new things and forming new friendships.'

Lotte Collin, Samling Academy 2019/20

## Samling Academy

One of our very first Samling Artists, tenor Toby Spence, shared his knowledge, experience and his boundless enthusiasm for song with our Samling Academy Singers. Their six days of intensive training at the start of the academic year culminated with a concert in Sage Two.



Photos: Mark Pinder



Photo: Roger Way

## Samling Artist Showcase at Wigmore Hall

Six Samling Artists were joined by the distinguished actor Sir Simon Russell Beale for our annual Samling Artist Showcase in a delightful evening of song and poetry inspired by gardens through the seasons.

Photo (l-r), Sir Simon Russell Beale, pianists Somi Kim and Joseph Middleton, mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany, soprano Claire Lees, baritone Dominic Sedgwick and tenor Nicky Spence.

## Alumni Success

Samling Artists swept the board at the second Grange International Singing Competition, with soprano Kiandra Howarth taking first prize and joint second prize going to soprano Samantha Clarke and mezzo-soprano Claire Barnett-Jones. They follow in the footsteps of Samling Artist Rowan Pierce who won the competition's inaugural prize in 2017. Kiandra has also won first prizes in the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Award in her native Australia and in the Wagner Society Singing Competition at Wigmore Hall.

Michael Pandya took the pianists' prize at the Wigmore Hall/Independent Opera International Song Competition, and singers Harriet Burns and Beth Taylor received second and third prizes. Samling Artist duo Harriet Burns and pianist Ian Tindale came second in the IVC 's-Hertogenbosch LiedDuo competition in the Netherlands. Congratulations to all!



Kiandra Howarth Photo: Victoria Cadisch





## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

**Sunday 1 – Sunday 8 March**

Led by Anna Stéphanie, Caroline Dowdle and James Garnon with staff pianist Somi Kim.



Eight outstanding young singers and pianists work on song and opera repertoire in our public masterclass led by Anna Stéphanie, who becomes the first Samling Artist Singer to return to the Samling Artist Programme as a leader. She is joined by Caroline Dowdle, pianist and vocal coach at the Royal Opera House and the Royal College of Music and actor James Garnon. The masterclass is followed by a short concert with classical music's rising stars.



## Samling Masterclass & Concert

**Saturday 7 March**

**1.30 – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6.15pm**  
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Catrin Woodruff	soprano
Katherine Aitken	mezzo-soprano
Lotte Betts-Dean	mezzo-soprano
Liam Bonthron	tenor
Edward Jowle	baritone
Nicholas Mogg	baritone
Gary Beecher	piano
Camille Lemonnier	piano

### Tickets

Masterclass and Concert £16.50  
Students/under 25s £5  
Available from Sage Gateshead  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



## SAMLING ACADEMY OPERA

**Mansfield Park, Jonathan Dove**

**Friday 17 – Friday 24 July**

Immerse yourself in the elegant world of Regency England with our Samling Academy Opera production of Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park*. Directed by Harry Fehr, this chamber opera adaptation sparkles with all the wit and charm of Jane Austen's novel with piano duet accompaniment adding to the period style.

**The Witham, Barnard Castle**  
Friday 17 July

**Birdsall House, Ryedale Festival**  
Monday 20 July

**Sage Two, Sage Gateshead**  
Thursday 23 July & Friday 24 July

Tickets and details available later in the year.



## SAMLING ACADEMY

**Friday 2 – Sunday 4 October and  
Friday 16 – Sunday 18 October**

Thirty young singers, chosen by audition from across the North East, embark on a year of musical discovery and development supported by our Samling Artists and leadership team, including:

Caroline Dowdle	music director
Patricia MacMahon	vocal teacher
Miranda Wright	Samling Artist/vocal teacher
Joan Rodgers	soprano
James Garnon	actor
Mandy Demetriou	choreographer



## Samling Academy Concert

**Sunday 18 October, 7.30pm**  
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Introducing our 2020/21 Samling Academy, this concert gives our young singers the opportunity to put into practice the performance skills they have been developing over their first two weekends of training, in a programme of song and opera.

Tickets available from Sage Gateshead later in the year  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



## SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE

**Thursday 5 November, 7.30pm**  
Wigmore Hall, London

Samling Institute's annual showcase concert: an evening of song with Samling Artist singers and pianists at different stages of their careers. More details to follow later in the year.



## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

**Sunday 29 November – Sunday 6 December**

The core of Samling Institute's work is our Samling Artist Programme, an intense week of coaching and musical discovery that many previous participants have described as 'life-changing'.



## Samling Masterclass & Concert

**Saturday 5 December**  
**1.30 – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6.15pm**  
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Introducing eight new Samling Artists in our public masterclass and concert, led by Italian opera star Barbara Fritolli, Samling Artist pianist Joseph Middleton and actor Alex Jennings.



## Invitation to join Samling Friends

Samling Friends are at the heart of our creative community. Together they help make the Samling Institute experience unique and we are hugely grateful for their support. In return, Friends receive excellent benefits, from opportunities to meet emerging and international stars, to attending private Samling Institute recitals. Friends' membership costs just £40 per year for an individual, or £60 per couple.

To join our Friends' scheme, or 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. You can also join online at samling.org.uk



Samling Institute for Young Artists  
Community Centre | Gilesgate | Hexham | Northumberland | NE46 3NP  
Tel: 01434 602885 | Email: enquiries@samling.org.uk | samling.org.uk  
Patron: Sir Thomas Allen CBE  
Artistic and Executive Director: Karon Wright  
Registered Charity No: 1112032 | Company No: 05576907



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