

Here comes Summer ...

For the very first time Samling is holding a Masterclass Week in summer and to launch this extra event in our diary we have invited the fabulous Amanda Roocroft to lead it.

Recently awarded the Laurence Olivier Award for her performance in the title role of ENO's *Jenůfa* she has secured a worldwide reputation as one of this country's most exciting singers. Few opera stars inspire leader comment, but the Guardian wrote 'In Praise of Amanda' describing this 'luscious' soprano's performances as 'heartstopping'.

It is not the first time Amanda has worked with Samling, most recently performing alongside Sir Thomas Allen and Samling Scholars at Cadogan Hall in our 2006 London Showcase.

"It is a coup for Samling that she has agreed to take time out at the height of her career to teach a new generation of young artists during our week-long Masterclass" said Samling's new Chairman Adrian Gifford.

Amanda will be joined by internationally acclaimed pianist Malcolm Martineau and foremost vocal consultant Paul Farrington for an afternoon's workshop on Thursday 12th June as together they work with our six specially selected young professional singers, developing and refining their technique and performance skills.

A lively evening of opera and song on Sunday 15th June rounds off the week when our six specially chosen young singers will perform alongside Amanda in the intimate setting of Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead.

Tickets are available now from The Sage Gateshead box office on 0191 443 4661 or on-line at www.thesagegateshead.org

There will be a number of special tickets, which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists in the Brasserie after the concert. These are priced at £75 and are available only from Samling on 01434 602885

Masterclass is supported by Bob and Jen Bowman



Amanda Roocroft

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Let's party!



Kintamarni

We're all set to make our annual 'Party in the Garden' the best ever this year. And with a line-up of live entertainment headed up by the elegant virtuosity of Kintamarni we're definitely on track!

Formed in 1996 the all female Kintamarni have established themselves as one of the UK's leading saxophone quartets. Their wide range of style, sense of fun and flexibility of performance have taken them to Wigmore Hall, The Bridgewater Hall and the Cardiff Millennium Centre. They have performed

at Bryn Terfel's Festival and at a concert for President Bill Clinton, as well as making many television and radio appearances.

Supporting them will be the jazz band Quintessential and Haydon Bridge High School's steel band, The Sunshine Panners, who'll be bringing the sounds of the Caribbean to Dilston House and gardens - whatever the weather - and we've got plenty of cover just in case!

Add to the mix a delicious barbeque and afternoon

tea, a house full of original art, sculpture and pottery – all for sale - and our lively auction with the effervescent Bill Kilpatrick guiding us through what's on offer from holidays to hampers, it is the hottest ticket of the summer!

Our tickets still offer the best possible value at £35 for a family; £15 for an adult and £5 for a child and are on sale now from Samling 01434 602885 - full details in Diary dates on the back page.

We'll get by ...

More than ever Samling needs Friends: those who value our work through music with young people and want to see us do more of it.

So we've set a target to attract new Friends to Samling and appointed someone to help us do it. Trustee Patrick Hazlehurst has agreed to spearhead this new initiative and along the way has been doing a spot of research.

"I've been looking closely at other Friends' Schemes and beyond any doubt Samling's two tier Friends'

scheme offers the best value for money," he said.

With subscription levels at just £35 for Silver and £140 for Gold the benefits are incredibly generous. If you just take a look at what's on offer I think you'll agree," he said

"Silver membership includes updates including our newsletters, an invitation to the private view before our annual Party in the Garden, invitation to Friends' receptions, one free ticket to all Masterclass open afternoons -

worth £8.50 each, per masterclass and there are three planned a year in both 2008 and 2009 - and acknowledgement in concert programmes."

"Gold membership, in addition to all the benefits of Silver, also includes one of our special tickets to the Samling concert of your choice and which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert worth £75 at The Sage Gateshead or £120 for our Showcase at Wigmore Hall,

London", he said.

"I'm inviting all our Friends to join me before our concert on June 15th for a glass of wine to let them know how much we value their support and hopefully as a result of this article some new faces as well," said Patrick.

Membership runs from April to March each year. To join us just call Samling on 01434 602885 or email us at enquiries@samling.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you.

Lining-up



February's Masterclass line-up, Hall One The Sage Gateshead (Photo by Mark Pinder)

Introducing ...

June sees a new strand to our Masterclass programme – this time for young pianists.

"Every year we hear some exceptionally talented young accompanists who come along to play for the singers we are auditioning and it occurred to us that we should be giving them opportunities as well," said Samling's Artistic Director Karon Wright.

"Joseph Middleton has a remarkable talent and he will be joining us in a masterclass of his own, working with Malcolm Martineau and Caroline Dowdle during our Masterclass week in June.

This new strand to Masterclass is hopefully one that we will develop and build on over the next few years so that we are able to offer opportunities to emerging young accompanists as well as singers," she said.



Joseph Middleton

A week in May sees Patron Sir Thomas Allen joining Samling's Artistic Director to audition next year's crop of Samling Scholars in London and Glasgow. They will be joined at The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama by Patricia MacMahon and at The Royal College of Music by Isobel Buchanan.

Samling annually hears about 75 young singers over three days, having sought recommendations from the principal music colleges in the country, the National Opera Studio and other trusted advisors who recommend young people who are in their final years of study or are about to embark on their professional lives.

"They come to a Samling week at that critical stage of their careers when they might not have a structured academic course to follow in the months to come, possibly no work in the diary and in nearly all cases no agent," explained Karon Wright.

"That's where Samling steps in with a week in which we try to cover as much ground as we can. And it isn't only about singing and stagecraft. This June, for instance, Samling Trustee Christopher Robson, of Rycroft Glenton Chartered Accountants, is offering a session on the tax consequences of self-employment which we hope will be very useful to them," she said.

www.samling.org.uk

Our new website is now live and the feedback has been unflinching positive, especially from Samling Scholars.

"We've been circulating this 'fast track' to the best far and wide - to casting directors, agents, festival organisers and promoters," said Katrina Quilliam, who has been working closely with the Samling team on the resource over the past few months, along with Newcastle-based design and marketing agency Blumilk.

"Our hope is that it will help our Scholars prosper and get work and also help us better communicate what we do to a wider public," Katrina said.

"Our creative team loved the challenge of getting to the essence of what Samling is all about," said Blumilk's managing director Colin Robertson, "and creating from that a new look and website which characterises the uniqueness of the organisation and its work with young people."

If you haven't had a chance to visit our new website yet please have a look at www.samling.org.uk



Coming up ...

Building on the success of our work in schools through Samling Outreach, we are currently in the development stages of a new two-year project with schools in County Durham.

The project, which will be supported by The Gillian Dickinson Trust, will involve young musicians from primary through to secondary school and provide opportunities for them to work and perform

alongside outstanding young professional musicians.

Full story in our next newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK

Monday 9th – Monday 16th June

Led by Amanda Roocroft, Malcolm Martineau and Paul Farrington with pianists Caroline Dowdle and Joseph Middleton and six specially selected young singers.

Thursday 12th June 2-5pm

Samling Masterclass, Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead.

Sunday 15th June 7pm

Samling Concert, Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead.

Tickets £26, £18, £12, £6

Tickets available from The Sage Gateshead

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

Online: www.thesagegateshead.org

There will be a number of special tickets, which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert. These are priced at £75 and will be available only from Samling on 01434 602885.

PARTY IN THE GARDEN

Sunday 29th June, 12 noon onwards

Dilston House, Corbridge.

Live music with Kintarmari, Quintessential, The Sunshine Panners and a barbecue lunch, afternoon tea and an auction. Exhibition throughout the house by artists including Liz Hough, Michael Ewart, Jane Murray, Martin Orchard, Clifford William Blakey, Robert Soden, John Adams and Ian Greensitt.

Tickets £35 per family, £15 per adult, £5 per child available only from Samling on 01434 602885.

SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK

Monday 6th – Monday 13th October

Led by Sir Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon and Paul Farrington with pianists Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle and six specially selected young singers.

Thursday 9th October, 2-5pm

Samling Masterclass, Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead.

Sunday 12th October 7 pm

Samling Concert, Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead.

Tickets £26, £18, £12, £6

Tickets available from The Sage Gateshead

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

Online: www.thesagegateshead.org

There will be a number of special tickets, which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert. These are priced at £75 and will be available only from Samling on 01434 602885.

SAMLING SHOWCASE

Friday 5th December, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London.

Samling Scholars will join Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau.

Box office 020 7935 2141

www.wigmore-hall.org.uk