



## Celebrating 15 Years of achievement

Each year our audiences know Samling event by event and at the start of this special year – 15 years on from small beginnings in Cumbria – we have an awful lot to shout about.

Masterclasses fed into operas. Accompanists became Samling Scholars and this year will see that pool grow to 200 young artists. Outreach programmes brought classical music to many thousands of schoolchildren of all ages, developing our ties with Southbank Sinfonia and the Berkeley Ensemble. And fine art projects encouraged young painters and sculptors. Distinguished singers from around the world, led by our Patron Sir Thomas Allen, together with internationally celebrated accompanists, artists and teachers came to Cumbria to lead week-long residencies that could and did change young professionals' lives.

Reciprocally we reached out to the USA through the Lindemann programme at the Metropolitan Opera and Juilliard School in New York, attracting singers and enthusiastic plaudits. Nearer home,

we carried our Showcase to St John's Smith Square, Cadogan Hall, the Royal Opera House and, for the past five years, to Wigmore Hall in London.

However, we are not resting on our laurels – far from it. We want to build on what has gone before as we look forward to the years ahead. We recognise that they may be difficult ones, in the face of an economic climate that all too frequently freezes out the arts, but we believe that the dynamism that has marked our remarkable progress in the past fifteen years can be maintained.

We have plans – ambitious and far-reaching ones – to expand on opportunities across the board for young singers and pianists through Masterclass; to take opera and Mozart, through *The Magic Flute*, to many more thousands of schoolchildren and develop the potential still further of that pool of Scholars who all want to help us in our work building new audiences for classical music. By the time we reach our twentieth anniversary all this could be achieved, but in order to

do so we need more than ever the continuing support of our generous donors and Friends, both new and established.

We kick off 2011 with our Outreach Project and Concert in March, then in April we move over to Carlisle for our Gala Concert. We have Masterclasses and Concerts at The Sage Gateshead in May and November. In July you are invited to join us for our annual Party in the Garden and we conclude the year in December at Wigmore Hall in London with our Annual Showcase.

As our readers will doubtless know, Samling receives no public funding whatsoever. Our survival is down to the generosity of our supporters. As we start this year we recognise that Samling is at a turning point where we can build on past achievements, deepen our vision and widen our appeal, particularly through our work with young people in schools.

**So much is possible and with your help and continued support we can do it!**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Centre pages:** Outreach 2011; Masterclass line-up; Carlisle Gala Concert; Shuna Scott Sendall;  
**Back page:** Events Book Now; Support Samling

"We were shown what it takes to be a truly great artist" Philip Smith, baritone & 2010 Samling Scholar. "

## Samling Gala Concert, Carlisle



© Paul Cosney

Yvonne Kenny, international star of the world's opera and concert stages and Samling Masterclass leader, will headline our Gala Concert from 7pm Saturday 2 April in St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle.

Since her visit to Samling last February Yvonne has appeared as Jocasta in an acclaimed performance of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and in Opera Australia's *Die Fledermaus*. 2010 also saw her complete an Australian concert tour, 'Singing for Love', with tenor David Hobson and the release of her recording of Richard Strauss's 'Four Last Songs' for ABC Classics.

The distinguished Australian soprano will be joined onstage by four Samling Scholars (Norah King soprano, Anna Huntley mezzo soprano, Peter Gijsbertsen tenor, Jean-Philippe Elleouet baritone) and the Berkeley Ensemble, who will have just completed our Outreach project in the Tyne Valley. Together with pianist Christopher Glynn, a regular member of our Masterclass team, they will perform a programme which will include Bizet's *Carmen*, arias and ensembles from Mozart and Puccini and English Song.

The evening doesn't end there, moving on to the medieval Tithe Barn for a sparkling reception and three-course dinner with the artists. Tickets are available from Samling priced £15 for the Concert only and £60 for both Concert and Dinner.

All tickets available from Samling on 01434 602885. Concert tickets only, available from Old Town Hall, Carlisle in person or on 01228 625600.

## May's Masterclass line-up

This Spring international artists John Mark Ainsley and Della Jones lead our prestigious Masterclass and Concert Series featuring some of the most gifted young singers and pianists of their generation.

It is always exciting to welcome a new artist to Samling and we feel sure that tenor John Mark Ainsley (pictured right) will bring to the experience for participants and audiences alike new insights from a distinguished career.



To date this includes concert appearances with the London Symphony under Sir Colin Davis, Rostropovich and Previn, the Berlin Philharmonic under Haitink and Rattle and the New York Philharmonic under Masur. John Mark has sung many operatic roles in the UK, Europe and USA, from Don Ottavio at the Glyndebourne Festival under Sir Simon Rattle and for his debut at the Royal Opera House under Mackerras, to the title role in Handel's *Samson* with the Netherlands Opera and numerous appearances at the Munich and Salzburg Festivals.



Photographs: Ben Ealovega

What's more, many of you will be delighted to learn that Della Jones (pictured right), one of Britain's leading mezzo sopranos – and, like John Mark, a singer known for her versatility over an extensive range of repertoire and roles – returns to Samling.



Our eight new Scholars – sopranos Jennifer France, Eva Ganizate and Meeta Raval, Kathryn Rudge mezzo soprano, Stephen Chambers tenor, Cozmin Sime baritone and pianists Elizabeth Burgess and Jocelyn Freeman – have much to learn from two singers with combined experience and acclaim for their interpretations of the works of Mozart and Handel to those of twentieth century classical composers and from baroque music to music theatre. Paul Farrington and Caroline Dowdle complete the Masterclass team.

North East audiences will be able to join us to see and hear all the artists in Masterclass on Wednesday 18 May. A concert, the climax of the week, is on Saturday 21 May. Both events are in Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead.

Tickets available from The Sage Gateshead, all details in Events overleaf.



## Outreach in the Tyne Valley

Our latest Outreach venture sees pupils from seven schools in Hexham and Corbridge, Northumberland, working and performing alongside five Samling Scholars – all graduates of Samling’s internationally recognised Masterclass programme for young classical singers and pianists – and the eight-piece Berkeley Ensemble.

Work started in schools in December where children at Corbridge C of E First School were the first to compose a song on the theme of ‘Nature’s People’, supported by mezzo soprano Anna Huntley and the Berkeley Ensemble. The professional musicians also worked with GCSE Music students on composition at Queen Elizabeth High School.

‘A key component of the GCSE music exam is composition,’ said QEHS Head of Music Martin Hoile, ‘and it was just a fantastic privilege and opportunity for our students to be given the chance to write their compositions for The Berkeley Ensemble and to be given insights from professional musicians into how they might go about it.’ The artists are set to return to the Tyne Valley in February and March to visit the five other schools taking part in the project, including St Mary’s RC and Sele First Schools, Hexham, Corbridge and St Joseph’s Middle Schools. All will be working towards a performance in Hexham Abbey on Thursday 31 March, the culmination of this project, which is being supported by the Gillian Dickinson Trust.

Tickets will be available to purchase through Samling, priced £5 per adult and £3 per child.



Above left: QEHS pupil Charlie Dancer with John Slack of the Berkeley Ensemble (left)

Above: Samling Scholar Anna Huntley with pupils from Corbridge C of E First School

Left: A-level pupil Gabrielle Barkess-Kerr (centre) with Dan Shilladay and Gemma Wareham of the Berkeley Ensemble

All images: Mark Pinder

## Shuna scoops Kiri Prize



Shuna Scott Sendall with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and José Carreras, Proms in the Park 2010, Hyde Park.

The inaugural BBC Radio 2 Kiri Prize was won by Samling Scholar Shuna Scott Sendall. The Scottish soprano, who took part in Masterclass in 2005, was rewarded with a place at the Solti Te Kanawa Academia in Italy and the opportunity of singing before an audience of 40,000 at ‘Proms in the Park’ alongside Dame Kiri herself and José Carreras.

‘Winning the Kiri prize has been a wonderful experience,’ said Shuna ‘one that wouldn’t have been possible without the help of many people throughout the years, not least my experience at Samling, which gave me the tools to get the best out of myself under pressure and especially to believe in myself.’

Six hundred young singers began the competition, which took place over several weeks, leading to a grand final between just five singers, including 2010 Samling Scholar Gwawr Edwards. Shuna won with performances of two arias, ‘Dich Teure Halle’ from Wagner’s *Tannhäuser* followed by ‘Morrò, ma prima in grazia’ from Verdi’s *Un Ballo in Maschera* accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra.



**SAMLING OUTREACH**

**Thursday 31 March, 7.30pm, Hexham Abbey**  
Five Samling Scholars and the Berkeley Ensemble join pupils from seven schools in Northumberland in a concert, the climax of Samling's Outreach project and residency in the Tyne Valley. The programme will include 'Benedicite' by Andrew Carter and a selection of popular opera choruses specially arranged by conductor Len Young.  
Tickets: £5 (adults) and £3 (children)  
Available from Samling 01434 602885.



© Paul Cossey

**SAMLING GALA CONCERT & DINNER**  
**Saturday 2 April, 7pm, St Cuthbert's Church & The Tithe Barn, Carlisle**

The international opera star Yvonne Kenny will join Samling Scholars – Norah King soprano, Anna Huntley mezzo soprano, Peter Gijbsbertsen tenor, Jean-Philippe Elleouet baritone – Christopher Glynn piano and the Berkeley Ensemble in this fundraising Gala evening in St Cuthbert's Church, followed by dinner with the artists in the medieval Tithe Barn.  
Tickets: Concert £15, Concert & Dinner £60.  
All tickets available from Samling on 01434 602885. Concert tickets only, available from Old Town Hall, Carlisle in person or on 01228 625600.



**SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK**  
**Sunday 15 – Sunday 22 May**

Led by John Mark Ainsley, Della Jones, Paul Farrington and Caroline Dowdle, with eight specially selected young singers and pianists.

**Samling Masterclass**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead

**Wednesday 18 May, 2-5pm**

Tickets £10

**Samling Concert**

**Saturday 21 May, 7pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead

Tickets A/B: £20.50 C: £14.00 D/E: £7.00

Available from The Sage Gateshead Ticket Office

0191 443 4661 or [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)



**SAMLING PARTY IN THE GARDEN**  
**Sunday 3 July, from 12 noon**

**Dilston House, near Corbridge**

Our summer celebration with fabulous food and drinks, live music, original art and auction.  
Tickets in advance: £40 per family (2 adults and up to 4 children); £18 per adult, £5 per child  
Tickets on the day: £45 per family (2 adults & up to 4 children), £20 per adult, £6 per child. Tickets available from Samling.



© Anne-Marie Le Blé

**SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK**  
**Sunday 6 – Sunday 13 November**

Led by Joan Rodgers, Malcolm Martineau, Paul Farrington and Vlad Iftinca, with eight specially selected young singers and pianists.

**Samling Masterclass**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead

**Wednesday 9 November, 2-5pm**

Tickets £10

**Samling Concert**

**Saturday 12 November, 7pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead

Tickets A/B: £20.50 C: £14.00 D/E: £7.00

Available from The Sage Gateshead Ticket Office  
0191 443 4661 or [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)



© Russell Duncan



**SAMLING SHOWCASE**  
**Wigmore Hall, London**

**Friday 9 December, 7.30pm**

With Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau, this Showcase features Samling's Scholars from the earliest days to its most recent graduates – Lisa Milne soprano, Kitty Whately mezzo soprano, Njabulo Madlala baritone and William Vann piano.  
Tickets £30, £25, £20 & £15, available from Wigmore Hall Box Office 020 7935 2141  
[www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)

**Dine with the artists afterwards...**

For these limited special tickets priced £125 contact Samling on 01434 602885 or email [enquiries@samling.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@samling.org.uk).

# Make a difference

Samling has an international reputation for supporting the development of outstanding young artists from around the world and attracts some of the world's most accomplished musicians, conductors and experts to lead its prestigious Masterclass programme.

Samling's Outreach activities involve professional musicians and schoolchildren across the North East and Cumbria in music making and education of the highest quality.

**Join us**

Samling's Friends and supporters help with everything we do, and can support our work in many ways, from making a donation to providing sponsorship and hospitality for our activities, from volunteering at our fundraising events to contributing to our Newsletter.

**Become a Friend**

As a Samling Friend you will receive newsletters, invitations to events, complimentary tickets and acknowledgement in our programmes. Membership starts from £50 (Silver), £150 (Gold) and £500 (Platinum).

**Become a Samling Scholar Partner**

Samling Scholar Partners invest in and support individual young classically trained singers and pianists with a gift of £5,000. By giving to this programme and supporting a Samling Scholar you will enjoy a position of partnership with Samling and the development of exciting new voices on the international stage.

All Samling Friends in whatever category are important in promoting the work of Samling. As Samling is a registered charity, you and Samling can both benefit by making a donation to the charity. Please ask for details.

**Why not get in touch**

Contact Claire Murphy, general manager, if you would like to support Samling, to make a donation (this might be on a one-off or recurring basis and can be made anonymously if preferred), become a Friend or a Samling Scholar Partner or make a gift of Friends' membership. Telephone 01434 602885, email [enquiries@samling.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@samling.org.uk).

Alternatively please send a cheque made payable to Samling to the address below. Please visit our website [www.samling.org.uk](http://www.samling.org.uk) for more information.

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