



GALA CONCERT *in the Garden*

On Sunday 3 July, Samling presents the centrepiece of its 20th Anniversary celebrations in the gardens of the Old Vicarage in Bywell. For the first time, this beautiful setting will host a 'Gala Concert in the Garden', where Samling Artists and members of Samling Academy will perform a selection of best-loved arias and ensembles, accompanied by the Northern Chords Festival Orchestra, under the baton of Whickham-born Jonathan Bloxham.

We welcome back four highly-acclaimed Samling Artists to lead our celebration. Welsh Soprano Elin Pritchard recently sang the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Buxton Festival, with Opera Now magazine describing her performance as 'the most sensational singing of the evening, and indeed of the whole festival... an astonishing tour de force of both acting and singing.' She is joined by mezzo-soprano Helen Sherman who represented her home country of Australia in the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition and performed at the opening ceremony for the Tour de France 2014 in Leeds Arena.

We also welcome back tenor Nicky Spence, described by the Telegraph as 'one of the finest young singers of his generation' and nominated by the International Opera Awards for Young Singer of the Year 2015. Baritone Morgan Pearse completes our Samling Artist line-up, having sung the title role in English National Opera's latest production of *The Barber of Seville*. The Guardian praised this 'handsome Australian baritone' and his 'wonderfully agile singing'.

They will be joined by Samling Academy participants soprano Ana Fernandez-Guerra and tenor Jordan Carlton, who both starred in our acclaimed Academy Opera production of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* last year.

'With music such as 'Largo al factotum' from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, 'O soave fanciulla' from Puccini's *La bohème* and Bizet's *Pearl Fishers* duet our audience can expect an unforgettable evening,' said Samling's director Karon Wright.

'Whatever the weather, we have provision in place with the finest marquees, matched only by the outstanding caterers Bakerwood, whose experience, culinary skill and expertise promise only the very best for our guests,' she said.

The evening starts with a sparkling reception and canapés for Premium ticket holders, held at 5pm in the Small Garden at The Old Vicarage with music

from the Northern Chords String Quartet. Dinner in the Main Marquee will follow, before guests are shown to their seats on the Front Lawn for the concert. Concert-only ticket holders receive a free glass of wine or soft drink upon arrival from 7pm.

Samling's Gala Concert in the Garden is generously supported by Principal Sponsors Ryecroft Glenton Chartered Accountants and Square One Law. The sparkling reception is sponsored by UBS Wealth Management, with the stage marquee generously provided by Bakerwood, who are also organising the catering for the event. Logistical support is being provided by Osbit.

Premium Tickets to Samling's Gala Concert in the Garden cost £95 to include a sparkling reception with canapés from 5pm, followed by dinner and reserved seats for the concert.

Concert-only tickets are £30 to include a welcome glass of wine or soft drink from 7pm.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW at www.samling.org.uk/events where more information is available including a dinner menu and directions to The Old Vicarage, or call 01434 602885 or email enquiries@samling.org.uk to book or for more information.

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'I am privileged to be a Samling Artist and will be proud of the achievement for the rest of my career. Samling is a gift: I am so lucky to have experienced it.' Timothy Langston, Samling Artist 2015

A Lover and his Lass



Shakespeare's 400th Anniversary is the inspiration for two concerts by members of Samling Academy this summer. Drawing together some of the Bard's greatest poetry set to music by Schubert, Britten, Howells and Tippett, fourteen of the North East's brightest young singers will present a programme of music that draws together texts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet* and *As You Like It* as well as the Sonnets.

Entitled 'A Lover and his Lass', the concerts take place on Thursday 21 July at The Witham in Barnard Castle and on Saturday 23 July at Saltburn

Community Theatre, which hosted performances of Samling Academy Opera productions in 2013 and 2015. Directed by Samling Artist Miranda Wright, the Academy singers will be accompanied by award-winning pianist and Samling Artist Ian Tindale.

'We are especially pleased to be performing at The Witham for the first time,' said development manager Mary Emmett, 'as well as returning to Saltburn and its Community Theatre where we have been made so welcome and where we have such strong support from within the community.'

It was a lover and his lass,
With a hey, and a ho,
and a hey nonino,
That o'er the green
corn-field did pass,
In the spring time,
the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing,
hey ding a ding, ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.
As You Like It,
William Shakespeare 1564–1616

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW
Tickets to 'A Lover and his Lass' are now on sale at www.thewitham.org.uk and www.saltburnarts.co.uk
For further details please see our [Diary Dates on page 4 of this newsletter](#).

David Butt Philip

In the first of a series of columns by Samling Artists, tenor David Butt Philip reflects on what being a Samling Artist has meant to him and how the experience has helped him on the road to international success.

'My Samling experience came at a slightly strange time in my development as an artist. I was one year out of college and slightly struggling to find how I would fit in to the business. After some early success whilst still a student I had bits and pieces of work, which kept me going, but not all of it was either appropriate for my voice or artistically rewarding.

Samling gave me an opportunity to take time out and refocus on what is really important about what we do, namely the art itself. My time on Samling Artist Programme six years ago encouraged me to remember always to devote time to thinking about the basics; the text and the music and how they interact. It also taught me that you can never be over-prepared and you must never stop learning.

Samling Artist Programme is special because of the sheer amount of detail in which it is possible to work, without any distractions. It's also truly invaluable to learn from such experienced and distinguished teachers – you can't get that level of advice anywhere else even for all the money in the world.

To any young singers and pianists thinking of auditioning to become Samling Artists, I'd say don't think twice! It's one of the best and most rewarding decisions you'll ever make.

I'm hugely looking forward to performing in Samling's Showcase at Wigmore Hall later this year. Singing in the Wigmore is always a joy; it has a unique atmosphere and acoustic. I'm also looking forward to working with all the other fabulous Samling Artists involved, many of whom are old friends of mine.

I've been lucky enough to work with Sir Thomas Allen several times over the last few years and to be honest I still have to pinch

myself a little. He was genuinely one of my first heroes, after Ian Rush and John Barnes!

David makes his role debut as Pinkerton in *Madam Butterfly* at English National Opera from 16 May, before reuniting this summer with the cast of the Royal Opera House's *Boris Godunov* for his Proms debut.

David is one of seven Samling Artists starring in 'The Seven Ages of Man', our Showcase Concert this November at Wigmore Hall. Tickets go on general sale from Tuesday 31 May at www.wigmore-hall.org.uk and by phone on 020 7935 2141.



Samling Artists David Butt Philip (right) and James Platt, *Boris Godunov*, Royal Opera House 2016

Auditioning for Samling

As this newsletter reaches you our annual auditions are in full swing for both our internationally recognised Samling Artist Programme and for Samling Academy.

We are often asked how we choose the young artists who we work with and the answer is that in the first place they must be recommended to us. For Samling Artist Programme recommendations come from all the major UK conservatoires, the National Opera Studio and other trusted individuals in opera houses here and overseas, as well as from all our course leaders. Samling Artists are also able to recommend their peers and indeed a significant number of singers and pianists have found their way to us this way.

The Artist Programme auditions take place each year over six days in London and Glasgow and our panel this year – the Australian soprano Yvonne Kenny, soprano and singing teacher Patricia MacMahon, pianists Caroline Dowdle and Christopher Glynn and Samling's director Karon Wright – will hear over 120 applicants for just 16 places.

Auditions for Samling Academy are also taking place in May at Newcastle University and are open to singers living or studying in the North East who will be aged 14-21 this October.

'As with the Artist Programme, applicants must be recommended to us,' said development manager Mary Emmett.

'We accept Academy recommendations from school teachers and singing teachers and as a result of our new Samling Futures initiative we are seeing a much greater number of applicants from the region's schools, all of which were contacted ahead of our 'Taster Day' earlier this year.'

'We recognise that auditions can be a bit scary – particularly for those who are attending one for the first time,' Mary said, 'but we do our absolute best to make the experience as good as we can for all those who come to sing for us and, even if you don't succeed first time, it is quite possible to come along the next year when you have had a bit more time to work with your teachers and gain more experience.'

The results of Samling's auditions will be released to all applicants in June.

Samling Futures

Students from across the North East have been coming together to get a taste of what being in Samling Academy is all about.

As part of our new 'Samling Futures' initiative to extend the reach of Samling Academy to more young singers in the North East of England, we contacted every school in the region inviting singers to come along to a 'Taster Day' in February at Jesmond's United Reformed Church.

Given the chance to work with our music director Caroline Dowdle and top class movement coach and choreographer Pedro Ribeiro, along with Academy leaders Miranda Wright and pianist Ian Tindale,



Samling 'Taster Day' participants at Jesmond's United Reformed Church

the young people worked on an opera chorus and watched three short masterclasses where two existing Academy participants worked on solo pieces and a duet with Academy leaders.

'The day demonstrated beyond any doubt that there are significant numbers of young people across the region who want to sing

and to explore classical repertoire. Through Samling Academy we can develop this interest and give them invaluable performance opportunities,' said Samling's director Karon Wright.



Gala Concert in the Garden

Sunday 3 July, 7.30pm
The Old Vicarage, Bywell,
Northumberland, NE43 7AD

A magical evening of opera by the banks of the river Tyne. With Samling Artists:

Elin Pritchard soprano
Helen Sherman mezzo-soprano
Nicky Spence tenor
Morgan Pearse baritone
And Ana Fernandez-Guerra and Jordan Carlton from Samling Academy

Jonathan Bloxham conductor
Northern Chords Festival Orchestra

Enjoy the perfect evening of music this July in a concert of opera classics staged for the first time in the beautiful private gardens of The Old Vicarage in Bywell.

Tickets

Now on sale available exclusively from Samling. Premium tickets: £95 to include sparkling reception with canapés from 5pm, followed by dinner and concert.

Concert-only tickets: £30 to include a welcome glass of wine from 7pm.

Principal Sponsors:



Sparkling reception sponsored by: UBS

Supported by: SBIT

Book online at www.samling.org.uk/events, call 01434 602885 or email enquiries@samling.org.uk



A Lover and his Lass

Celebrating Shakespeare in Words and Music

Thursday 21 July, 7.30pm

The Witham, Barnard Castle

Saturday 23 July, 7.30pm

Saltburn Community Theatre,
Saltburn-by-the-Sea

To mark William Shakespeare's 400th anniversary Samling Academy presents a programme of songs setting his timeless words to music. Directed by Samling Artist Miranda Wright, this performance from some of the region's most talented young singers will be interspersed with readings from Shakespeare's plays and poetry.

To include songs by Schubert, Britten, Howells and Tippett accompanied by Samling Artist pianist Ian Tindale.

Tickets

£12 / concessions £10 (Under 16s and full-time students).

Tickets for Thursday 21 July:
www.thewitham.org.uk or 01833 631107

Tickets for Saturday 23 July:
www.saltburnarts.co.uk or 01287 624997



Samling Academy 2016 Concert

Sunday 23 October, 7.30pm

Northern Rock Foundation Hall

Sage Gateshead

The culmination of six days of intensive study, this concert features some of the most talented young singers from across the North East, performing a mix of opera and song.

Tickets on sale in June, available from Sage Gateshead 0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com



20th Anniversary Wigmore Masterclass

Tuesday 8 November, 1pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Samling has a long-established reputation in nurturing embryonic potential and setting a course to professional brilliance through our international Artist Programme. This afternoon Masterclass led by Sir Thomas Allen, Yvonne Kenny and Malcolm Martineau showcases some of the brightest of our most recent discoveries.



20th Anniversary Wigmore Showcase

Tuesday 8 November, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Sir Thomas Allen baritone
Malcolm Martineau piano

Samling Artists
Kiandra Howarth soprano
Kathryn Rudge mezzo-soprano
David Butt Philip tenor
Benjamin Appl baritone
Andrew Foster-Williams bass
James Baillieu piano
James Sherlock piano

Our 20th Anniversary Wigmore Showcase features Samling's Patron Sir Thomas Allen, Malcolm Martineau and seven Samling Artists from over the years, taking as its theme Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man to explore 'this strange eventful history' through song.

Programme includes: **Brahms** Alte Liebe; **Britten** The Foggy, Foggy Dew; **Quilter** It was a lover and his lass; **Schubert** Nachtstück; **Schumann** Marienwürmchen

Full programme details available at www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Tickets

Masterclass: £8 / concessions £6
Concert: £36, £30, £25, £20, £15
Available from Wigmore Hall Box Office
www.wigmore-hall.org.uk / 020 7935 2141

Join the artists after the concert

There are a number of special tickets priced at £125 available from Samling which include best seats and a reception and supper with all the artists after the concert. Tickets available from Samling on 01434 602885 or by email to enquiries@samling.org.uk

Principal Sponsor: Associate Sponsor:



Samling Artist Programme

Sunday 20 – Sunday 27 November

Angelika Kirchschrager, Patricia MacMahon and Malcolm Martineau come together to pass on their knowledge and experience to a new generation.

Samling Masterclass and Concert

Saturday 26 November

1.30pm - 4.30pm and 5.15pm - 6.00pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Tickets on sale in June, available from Sage Gateshead 0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com



Samling | Community Centre | Gilesgate | Hexham | Northumberland | NE46 3NP | Tel / Fax: 01434 602885 | Email: enquiries@samling.org.uk | www.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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