



Masks, movement and music

From left to right: Artist Miranda Whall, Andrew Bottomley from Hepple and Karon Wright with children from Sele First School

Photo: Mark Pinder

Children from across the age ranges joined together recently in a special educational project to celebrate arts and music - wowing audiences at a concert in Hexham Abbey in the process.

They had been taking part in The Samling Foundation's second education and outreach project in partnership with London-based Southbank Sinfonia. Building on the success of last year's event this involved a visual artist, two choreographers, four Samling Scholars as well as the orchestra.

"The Samling Foundation's aim was to build on its work of the previous year and introduce new elements involving professionals from visual arts and dance. Working together through an Arts & Business Award we are delighted to have been able to do this," said Andrew Bottomley, design director of Hepple Furniture.

Year four children from two local schools - Sele First School and Corbridge C of E First School - learned the art of felt-making with Berlin-based artist Miranda Whall to produce masks for a Hungarian and a medieval dance.

"The children were asked to design a mask with a medieval animal theme. We then made the felt, moulded it, added three dimensional elements and textures and then mounted the masks on sticks for the performance.

It was great fun and the results were stunning," said Miranda, who studied fine art at the Royal Academy.

The children also had the opportunity to work with two choreographers - Lucy Hudson and Tim Rubridge on a number of dances from around the world.

Southbank Sinfonia and Samling Scholars - Katherine Manley, Madeleine Shaw, Adrian Ward and Stefan Holmström - worked intensively over a period of three full days with instrumentalists and choirs from Queen Elizabeth High School and St Joseph's Middle School.

The result of all this activity and hard work was an evening of music, dance and song featuring Southbank Sinfonia, the Samling Scholars, students and children as part of Hexham Abbey Festival.

The concert featured Northumbrian folk songs orchestrated and arranged by Queen Elizabeth High School's Head of Music, Len Young; Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture and Haydn's Nelson Mass.

"To work with professional artists was a great experience for the children and one which will hopefully inspire them for the future" said Simon Over, director of Southbank Sinfonia. "Everyone worked incredibly hard and it certainly showed in their performance - they were wonderful."

Dates for your diary

Sunday 13th November - Sunday 20th November

Masterclass Week led by Sir Thomas Allen, Felicity Palmer, Barbara Leigh-Hunt, Richard Pasco, Paul Farrington, Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle and this year's specially selected young singers - Martene Grimson, Anna Stéphany, Celeste Lazarenko, Flora McIntosh, Mark Chaundy and James Harrison.

Open Afternoon, Wednesday 16th November 2pm - 5pm

Gala Concert, Saturday 19th November 7pm The Sage Gateshead.

Choral Day, Monday 21st November 10am - 2.30pm

St. Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle.

Masterclass sponsored by:

Friday 9th December, Samling Concert with Sir Thomas Allen, Samling Scholars; Katherine Manley, Anna Stéphany, Marc Labonnette, Ed Lyon with pianists Malcolm Martineau and Simon Over 7.30pm at Wigmore Hall.

Coming up in 2006

There will be plenty to celebrate in 2006 - not least the 10th anniversary of The Samling Foundation. To mark this very special year we've got lots of events to look forward to. We'll be taking our first Masterclass of the year back to Cumbria - where it started all those years ago - and are lucky to have Isobel Buchanan and Paul Farrington to lead the specially chosen young singers with actors Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Richard Pasco adding an extra touch of Samling magic.

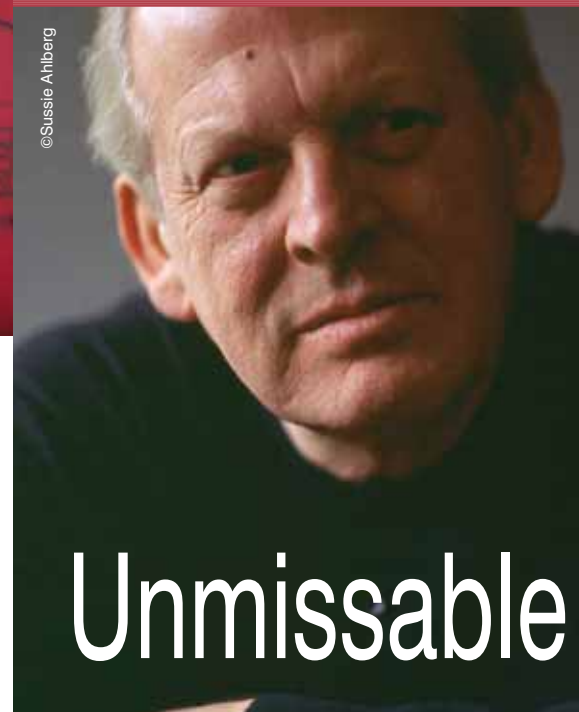
We'll also be hosting some anniversary concerts in Carlisle and London with Southbank Sinfonia and there will be a rather special Samling Garden Party in the summer as well as another Masterclass later in the year - full details in our next newsletter...

The Samling Foundation
NURTURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISTS

news

autumn 2005

issue 15



Unmissable



Sir Thomas Allen (left) and Felicity Palmer (right) with our Wigmore Hall line-up (centre)

Two high profile events are going to ensure that the summer success of our first opera *Così fan tutte* is carried right to the end of the year.

In November, at the invitation of The Sage Gateshead, we are bringing our prestigious Masterclass Programme to the North East for the first time followed by a fund-raising concert at one of the world's greatest concert venues - Wigmore Hall in London in December.

"This year has already been an amazing one for us and it is far from over," said Karon Wright, artistic director. "We just about had time to draw breath after *Così* before our recent outreach and community project with Southbank Sinfonia as part of the Hexham Abbey Festival and we've still got these two really exciting events to come."

The Samling Foundation's Masterclass Week, which is being sponsored by Robert Muckle Solicitors and UBS Wealth Management, will give North East audiences two opportunities to sample not only the talents of six gifted young singers but also enjoy those of Sir Thomas Allen and Felicity Palmer and two of Britain's finest film and theatre actors - Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Richard Pasco. They will appear in an Open Afternoon of Masterclasses on Wednesday 16th November, 2pm and a concert on Saturday 19th November, 7pm both in Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead.

The Samling Foundation will then round off the year in true style with a fund-raising concert at Wigmore Hall on Friday, December 9, 7.30pm. Hosted by its Patron, Sir Thomas Allen, the concert will feature four outstanding young singers - Anna Stéphany, Katherine Manley, Marc Labonnette and Ed Lyon - all Samling Scholars.

"It is absolutely fitting that we end what has been one of our most successful years with a concert at Wigmore Hall - and that Tom Allen is the one to bring our year to a close," said Karon Wright. "It will be a really special evening hosted in his inimitable style."

Tickets for the Masterclass Open Afternoon and 'Words & Music' Concert are available at The Sage Gateshead box office on 0191 443 4661. There are a number of special tickets which include a three course dinner with wine and coffee with the artists in the Barbour Room after the concert. These are priced at £75 and are available only from The Samling Foundation on 01434 602885.

Tickets for The Samling Foundation's London Concert are available from Wigmore Hall box office on 0207 935 2141. There are also a number of tickets which include a three course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert in the Bechstein Room. These are priced at £120 and are available only from The Samling Foundation on 01434 602885.

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Così Memories - we look back at the opera production and education project with a few words and lots of pictures.

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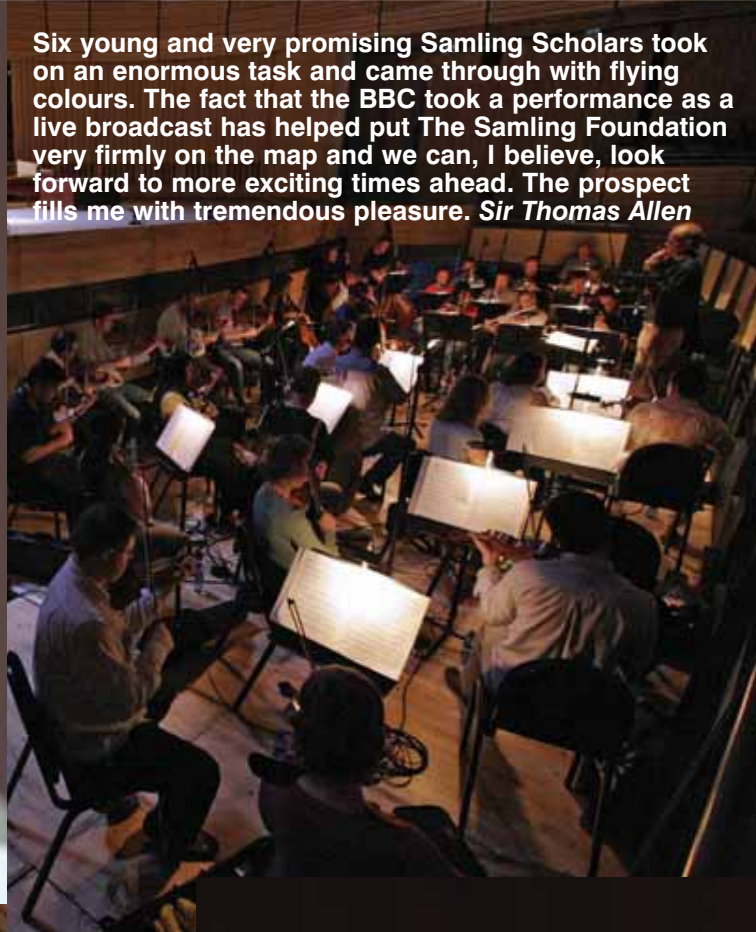
Masks, Music and Movement - review of the schools' project which was part of the Hexham Abbey Festival. Also on this page...diary of events and what's coming up in 2006!

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Patron: Sir Thomas Allen CBE Artistic Director: Karon Wright Charity No: 1058654

Così memories



Samling Opera's *Così fan tutte* was two years in the making and over in a flash. But what a flash it was. To mark this fantastic achievement we've pulled together some *Così* memories and highlights to share with you.



Six young and very promising Samling Scholars took on an enormous task and came through with flying colours. The fact that the BBC took a performance as a live broadcast has helped put The Samling Foundation very firmly on the map and we can, I believe, look forward to more exciting times ahead. The prospect fills me with tremendous pleasure. *Sir Thomas Allen*



- Nearly three thousand people from all over the region and beyond came to Hall One at The Sage Gateshead to enjoy Samling Opera's production of *Così* in partnership with Northern Sinfonia.

- One thousand local schoolchildren enjoyed a special preview of the opera - sponsored by The Gillian Dickinson Trust.

- The opera was recorded by BBC Radio Three on the opening night and broadcast on Friday 8th July 2005.

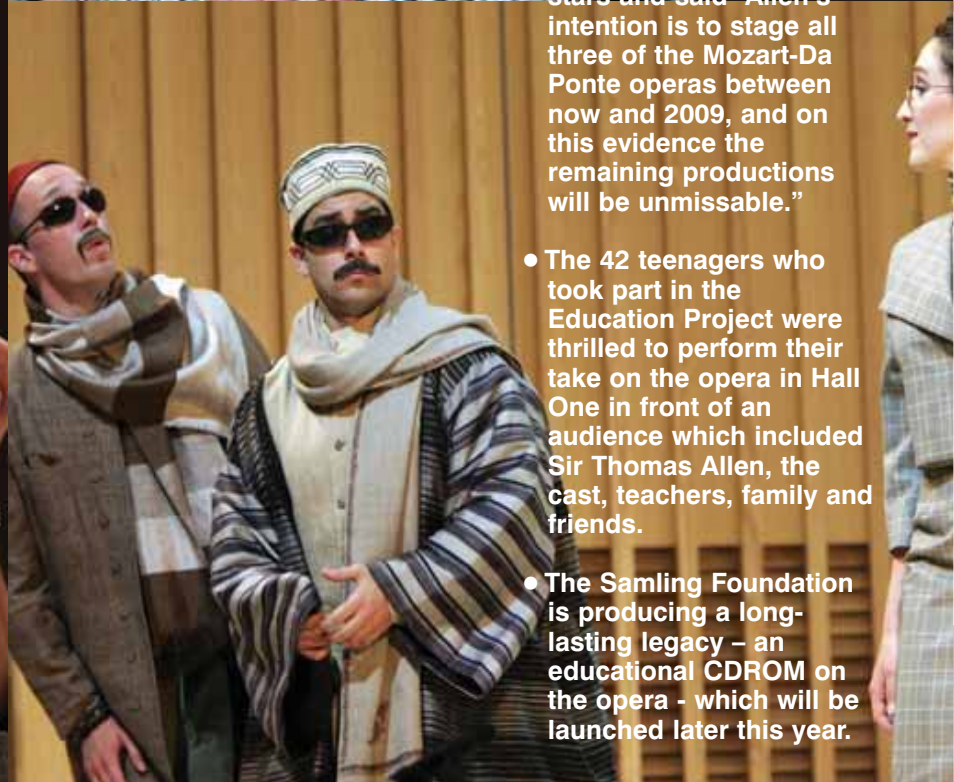
- The production was critically acclaimed by local and national press - The Guardian gave it four stars and said "Allen's intention is to stage all three of the Mozart-Da Ponte operas between now and 2009, and on this evidence the remaining productions will be unmissable."



Take a bunch of talented singers, a world class director, a world class production team, a world class orchestra and conductor add a world class venue, place them in the flawless logistical and administrative hands of Karon Wright and her Samling team, pour into a cauldron of creativity and then liberally season with fun, good humour and side-splitting laughter. Heat, simmer for three weeks and then serve generously. *Richard Morrison*



Having an opportunity like this only ever comes once in a lifetime and it is something I shall never forget. To put the whole opera together in just three weeks was quite something - what made it so special were the people around me. Tom Allen was an inspirational director and the cast and production team were a joy to work with. *Carolyn Dobbin*



- The 42 teenagers who took part in the Education Project were thrilled to perform their take on the opera in Hall One in front of an audience which included Sir Thomas Allen, the cast, teachers, family and friends.

- The Samling Foundation is producing a long-lasting legacy - an educational CDROM on the opera - which will be launched later this year.



It was smiles all round when a thousand schoolchildren from across the region came together at The Sage Gateshead to witness the very first performance of this production of *Così*. This special preview sponsored by The Gillian Dickinson Trust gave some of these children their first taste of opera and judging by the rapturous applause at the end they all thoroughly enjoyed it!

They did it

Another group of outstanding performers who definitely deserve a mention are the 42 teenagers who took part in Samling Opera's innovative education project. In front of an audience which included Sir Thomas Allen, the cast, their teachers, family and friends they took to the stage of Hall One and performed their take on the opera called "All the Girls Do It." "The students worked incredibly hard and very professionally especially during the three days in the run-up to the show and I think this showed in the performance," said Susannah Waters, education project leader. "I was extremely proud and happy with the results."



Samling Opera cast, production and education team