

# Facing the future

A chance meeting 10 years ago between businessman Roger McKechnie and Karon Wright sparked off an idea to bring the world's best artists together with talented young professionals and give them a place to work, perform, exhibit and above all, be inspired.

Achieving exactly what you set out to do is no mean feat because, invariably, goalposts have to be moved - but just take a close look at the centre pages of this newsletter. What you see over and over again are a whole host of illustrious names working with talented young people.

"After all this time I think we are allowed to blow our own trumpet and quite loudly too," said Karon Wright, artistic director of The Samling Foundation. "What we are celebrating is 10 years of artistic excellence consistently bringing the world's best to the region to work with talented young people.

"We believe that no digital connection can replace direct contact with great people and we are committed to nurturing the next generation of artists and involving local schools and teachers along the way," she explained.

So what does the next 10 years hold for this ground-breaking charity. "I think it was our patron, Sir Thomas Allen, who described The Samling Foundation as a tree - adding new branches as it grows. Our first opera production last year was a new branch which sprang out of our masterclass programme and we're already in the planning stages for the next one in 2007."

*Don Giovanni* will be the second in a Da Ponte series produced by Samling Opera at The Sage Gateshead, and Karon is already enthusing about its progress. "We've got one of the brightest young stars of the opera world - Christopher Maltman - lined up to play *Don Giovanni* and what's even more exciting is that it will be his first time in this role."

Also on the back burner is another major visual arts project. "After arena with Antony Gormley, we developed the idea for



Karon Wright

'Paint' and we're still very keen to get this project off the ground - it's just a question of timing and money at this stage," commented Karon.

One constant is the charity's highly respected vocal masterclass programme. "We started with masterclass in 1996 and since then have worked with some of the world's best artists and musicians. Over 120 young singers from all over the world have benefitted along with school children and students who take part in choral workshops - all part of our masterclass programme."

But as Karon points out all this is not possible without the continued support from funders and sponsors. "Over the past 10 years we have received generous sponsorship and funding from businesses, individuals and various trusts and foundations. This kind of support underpins our continued success and is vital for the development of our future projects."

**If you would like to find out more about The Samling Foundation and its Friends' Scheme please contact 01434 602885 or visit [www.samlingfoundation.org](http://www.samlingfoundation.org)**

## Dates for your diary

### Sunday 5th February - Monday 13th February

**Masterclass Week** led by Isobel Buchanan, Barbara Leigh-Hunt, Richard Pasco, Paul Farrington, Caroline Dowdle and Chris Glynn and this year's specially selected young singers - Pumeza Matshikiza, Katrina Broderick, Elizabeth Key, Nicky Spence, Njabulo Thabiso Madlala and Nikola Maticic  
**Masterclass**, Wednesday 8th February 2pm-5pm  
**Gala Concert**, Saturday 11th February 7pm  
**Choral Day**, Monday 13th February 10am-2.30pm  
All at St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle.

### Sunday 23rd April

**10th Anniversary Concert** with Patricia MacMahon, Mark Le Brocq, Kate Valentine and pianist Caroline Dowdle  
St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle 8pm.

### Sunday 25th June

**Party in the Garden** - The Samling Foundation's annual fundraising garden party at Dilston House, Corbridge from 12 noon.

### Tuesday 19th September - Friday 22nd September

**Outreach Project** with Southbank Sinfonia, Samling Scholars and schools in Northumberland culminating in a concert on Friday 22nd September. Venue to be confirmed.

### Sunday 19th - Monday 27th November

**Masterclass Week** led by Sir Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington, Malcolm Martineau and Simon Over and this year's specially selected young singers - Silvia Moi, Anna Grevelius, Nathan Vale, Jacques Imbrailo and Benedict Nelson.  
**Masterclass**, Wednesday 22nd November 2pm-5pm  
**Gala Concert**, Saturday 25th November 7pm  
Hall 2, The Sage Gateshead  
**Choral Day**, Monday 27th November 10am-2.30pm  
St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle.

### Wednesday 6th December

**Elijah** with Sir Thomas Allen, Samling Scholars and Southbank Sinfonia  
Westminster Cathedral, London (time to be confirmed)

### Friday 8th December

**10th Anniversary Gala Concert** with Sir Thomas Allen, Samling Scholars and Southbank Sinfonia  
Cadogan Hall, London 7.30pm.

**More details and news of events to follow in our next issue.**

### The Samling Foundation

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

# The Samling Foundation

1996 - 2006 CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

# news

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From left to right: Barbara Leigh-Hunt, Richard Pasco, Isobel Buchanan and Paul Farrington (seated)

To launch The Samling Foundation's 10th Anniversary year, we are heading back to Farlam Hall in Cumbria for the first masterclass of 2006 with a rather special team at the helm.

Back in 2003 we brought together one of Britain's best loved sopranos Isobel Buchanan with two of the country's leading theatre and film actors Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Richard Pasco and top vocal consultant Paul Farrington to lead our masterclass. They were, even by our standards, a 'dream team' and now we've managed to secure them all again.

Together with pianists Caroline Dowdle and Chris Glynn, they will work with six wonderful young singers - Pumeza Matshikiza and Njabulo Thabiso Madlala from South Africa, Nikola Maticic from Sweden, Katrina Broderick, Elizabeth Key and Nicky Spence from the UK.

Audiences will get two opportunities to sample the talents of all those involved. Firstly, at a public masterclass at St Cuthbert's Church in Carlisle on Wednesday 8th February 2-5pm, the team will take the young singers through their paces in an action packed afternoon. Then on Saturday 11th February 7pm again at St Cuthbert's Church the week will come to a close with the first Samling Concert of the year featuring all the performers in a one-off evening of songs, arias and readings.

Tickets for both events are on sale now priced at £7.50 for the masterclass and £12 or £10 (concessions) for the concert. All tickets are available from The Samling Foundation on 01434 602885; Tullie House Museum 01228 534781 and Bookends 01228 529067, both in Castle Street, Carlisle.

There will be a number of special tickets priced £60, which include reserved seating and dinner with the artists after the concert in the Tithe Barn. These are available only from The Samling Foundation.

## 2006 - A year of celebration!

Throughout 2006, The Samling Foundation is celebrating 10 years of artistic excellence with a whole host of special events. Right from the first masterclass of the year (see above) to special concerts in Carlisle, the North East and London to outreach projects with Northumberland Schools, our second masterclass at The Sage Gateshead and of course, our much loved Party in the Garden - there are plenty of opportunities to join in the celebrations. For more details see our Diary Dates on the back page of this newsletter.

## Inside this issue:

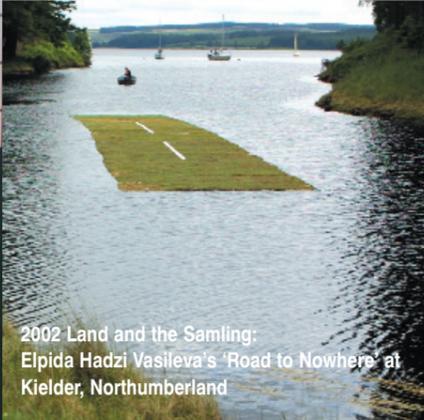
**Page Two and Three**  
**10 Years of Artistic Excellence** - we look back at some of the highlights of the past 10 years

**Page Four**  
**Facing the future** - looking towards the next 10 years with The Samling Foundation's Artistic Director, Karon Wright  
Also on this page...a detailed run-down of events for 2006 in our diary dates!



# Rolling back the years

Starting with our first masterclass: Simon Over, Malcolm Martineau, Sir Thomas Allen and Patricia MacMahon with young artists Lisa Milne, Toby Spence, Kathryn Turpin and Joost van der Linden



2002 Land and the Samling: Elpida Hadzi Vasileva's 'Road to Nowhere' at Kielder, Northumberland



2004 Education Outreach Project: Southbank Sinfonia and St Joseph's RC Middle School Choir



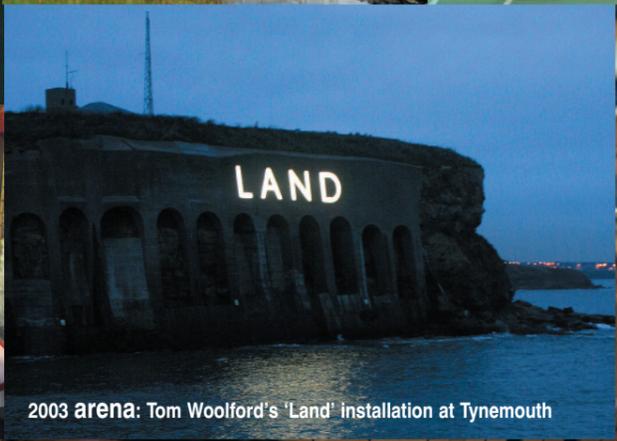
2005 Visual Arts Education Outreach Project with Miranda Whall and children from Sele and Corbridge First Schools



2005 Masterclass: Caroline Dowdle, Paul Farrington and Flora McIntosh at The Sage Gateshead



2000 Masterclass: Barbara Bonney and Fiona Duncan



2003 arena: Tom Woolford's 'Land' installation at Tynemouth



2005 Education Outreach Performance: Hexham Abbey with Queen Elizabeth High School Choir and Southbank Sinfonia



2003 arena: Antony Gormley



2001 Masterclass: Sir Thomas Allen and Jonathan Lemalu



2005 Masterclass: Della Jones



2005 Samling Opera: Education Project



2002 Masterclass: Ileana Cotrubas



2003 arena: Antony Gormley with the five young professional artists and the 60 A-level students who took part in the project in partnership with Baltic, Centre for Contemporary Art



2005 Samling Opera: Così fan tutte



2004 Samling Concert: Christopher Maltman and Leigh Woolf



2003 arena: Wolfgang Weileder's 'House City' Grainger Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



1998 Poetry Conference: In partnership with Wordsworth Trust Karon Wright, Melvyn Bragg and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney

All photos: Mark Pinder