

The Samling Foundation

1996 - 2006 CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

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Carlisle Concert from left to right: Patricia MacMahon, Mark Le Brocq, Kate Valentine and Caroline Dowdle

Let's celebrate . . .

When you've been working closely with some of the world's best for ten years and it comes to celebrating achievement, The Samling Foundation doesn't have to look far. A quick glance at our website reveals a host of internationally famous artists, many of whom we have helped on their way. The challenge is who we should ask and why.

We have two fundraising concerts planned this year to mark our 10th Anniversary, which bring together not only people who have been the cornerstone of our Masterclass programmes since the beginning, but young artists who have shone brightly over the years too, and some special guests.

On Sunday 23rd April, 8.00pm at St Cuthbert's Church in Carlisle audiences can look forward to an evening in the company of Scottish soprano Patricia MacMahon, internationally renowned tenor Mark Le Brocq, Samling Scholar Kate Valentine and pianist Caroline Dowdle.

"Pat's contribution to masterclass has been immense over the years and it is absolutely fitting that she should lead this concert. We're also extremely lucky to have Mark Le Brocq, who has been a long-time supporter of our work, with us for the first time.

"Together with Caroline Dowdle, who is at the heart of our Masterclass programme today, and one of our young talented singers from 2003, Kate Valentine, it will be quite a party!" said Karon Wright, artistic director.

At the end of the year, The Samling Foundation will host an opera gala with Southbank Sinfonia at one of London's newest concert venues, Cadogan Hall on Friday 8th December, 7.30pm. This star-studded line-up features, of course, The Foundation's Patron Sir Thomas Allen.

Along with international soprano Isobel Buchanan, he will be performing with four brilliant Samling Scholars – soprano Lucy Crowe, mezzo Anna Grevelius, tenor Adrian Ward and baritone James Harrison, under the baton of our very own Simon Over.

Again this line-up is significant. "Tom and Simon have been with The Samling Foundation from the very beginning and Isobel has led two of our masterclass programmes in recent years. We have also developed a very special relationship with Southbank Sinfonia, an outstanding and pioneering young orchestra, who have worked with us on two very successful educational outreach programmes in Northumberland, and they will do so again this year. To be able to all come together in London for this special anniversary fund-raising concert couldn't be a better way to celebrate 10 years of artistic excellence," said Karon Wright.

Ticket information for both concerts can be found in dates for your diary on the back page of this newsletter.

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Where are they now?

Nearly two hundred young professional singers and artists have worked with, and benefited from, The Samling Foundation's unique and intensive masterclass programmes and visual arts projects and residencies over the past 10 years. So would tracking down some of these illustrious and busy alumni be quite an onerous task for Jeannie Duncan?

As luck would have it the charity keeps in touch with just about all its alumni, and despite the fact that many are now flung to the far corners of the globe, they were quick to respond when I mentioned three words 'The Samling Foundation'.

Take New Zealand-born bass-baritone Jonathan Lemalu, for instance. Jonathan has worked in many of the world's greatest opera houses including Royal Opera House, Bayerische Staatsoper and the Metropolitan in New York in roles such as Mozart's Figaro, Papageno, Leporello and Masetto. He's also a successful recording artist with EMI and has a busy time ahead with operatic engagements in New York, Japan, Germany and London and concerts in Madrid, Munich, New Zealand and London.

He was in Australia taking a well-earned break when I caught up with him. Even so, he took the time out of his holiday to email a few words about his Samling masterclass experience.



"I would recommend the Samling experience to any singer," Jonathan Lemalu

"Everyone felt the opportunity to let themselves open up to the suggestions and teaching Sir Thomas Allen and the team gave. It is rare to be able to bare yourself, warts and all, technically, vocally and emotionally.

It was a testament to a great group of supportive fellow students, as well as the wonderful teachers that we could show our weaknesses in front of others, and there was a great sense of achievement when anyone had an epiphany in their own development," said Jonathan.

Another alumnus whose feet barely touch the ground these days is soprano Lisa Milne. Her most recent engagement, by the way, was at Buckingham Palace to pick up an MBE. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Pamina under the baton of James Levine in 2005 and was invited back in the autumn as Susanna.

With another busy season lined up, which includes her first Countess in a new production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* at ENO, Lisa is very much in demand. She still, however, remembers her Masterclass week as a turning point "To have such a concentrated period of time, as an individual and as part of a group, with such artists as Malcolm Martineau, Thomas Allen and Patricia MacMahon was amazing," said Lisa.



"It was a wonderful and very rare opportunity," Lisa Milne

Soprano Elizabeth Atherton, who is currently a Welsh National Opera Associate Artist, remembers her Samling Masterclass week as totally inspirational. "My overriding memory is one of working on an early Schoenberg song with Malcolm Martineau and feeling that I was truly making music for the first time in my life – he let me fly!" She said. "Another highlight has to be singing "Soave sia il vento" with Tom Allen – surely every soprano's dream."

From opera to the visual arts may appear a bit of a leap, but by applying its Masterclass ethos, The Samling Foundation has initiated and managed some exciting projects over the years. These include 'Land and The Samling' and most recently its **arena** project with Antony Gormley. Two of the artists who took part in that were Wolfgang Weileder and Runa Islam.

Wolfgang was no stranger to The Samling Foundation having taken part in 'Land and The Samling', and **arena** proved a great opportunity for him to develop the first of his exciting house projects within a city location.

"With great support from The Samling Foundation I was able to realise *house-city* next to the Monument in the centre of Newcastle," said Wolfgang.

Wolfgang's work is currently part of a show at Baltic, The Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead and a book on all *house-projects*,



"**arena** was the catalyst for similar projects in Madrid and Birmingham," Wolfgang Weileder

including *house-city* has just been published by Ikon Gallery, Birmingham.

arena was also crucial in the development of another artist's work – that of film-maker Runa Islam.

Since its creation this film/video installation, called 'Scale 1/16 inch = 1 foot', has been seen at major festivals around the world and appears in the publication 'Visages and Voyages' which was produced in tandem with Runa's first large solo show in Helsingborg last year.



"The Samling Foundation's arena commission was a timely opportunity and resource that helped me develop a new work involving the iconic Owen Luder car park in Gateshead,"
Runa Islam

The Samling Foundation views all its alumni as extended family and continues to offer as many opportunities to them as possible. "Whether it is through Samling Opera, concerts, exhibitions or projects we have made a significant investment in them all and not just financially. We believe in these young people and are prepared to do all we can to see them flourish," said Samling Foundation chairman Roger McKechnie.

Masterclass memories . .

"I remember struggling with the Rejoice aria from Handel's 'Messiah' and after a lesson with Pat MacMahon I knew how to break down the coloratura and now sing this regularly. We had great chats over dinner and were given fabulous career advice. It was wonderful to work with such inspirational people in beautiful surroundings and my Samling week is something that I will never forget!"

Sarah Redgwick

"What I can say is how fulfilling and rewarding the Samling masterclass week was, and how privileged I felt to have been invited to do it."

Lucy Crowe

My abiding musical memory is singing a trio with Chris Saunders and Tom (I think from *Così*) in the concert and realising quite how loud Tom could sing! The realisation that as a lyric baritone he needed that much oomph and how much more, as one seemingly destined for the heavier repertoire, I would need. After just spending the last eighteen months singing Wagner and Strauss I'm beginning to get a good idea but I suppose that evening concert and our work in masterclass gave me an early clue of what it takes to get to the top.

James Rutherford

"It was absolutely amazing to meet Thomas Allen and Ileana Cotrubas - these exquisite musicians and human beings - to work with them and learn from observing their work with others. Ileana gave much support, great inspiration and lots of good advice, and I came home from that masterclass with a 'gem' in my soul, an imprint, an experience I will carry with me always."

Henriikka Gröndahl

CD ROM ready for lift off

Mozart's well-loved opera *Così fan tutte* is a tale of love and deception, of heartache and betrayal. The scheming Don Alfonso persuades his two young friends Guglielmo and Ferrando to test the fidelity of two sisters, Fiordiligi and Dorabella, with each trying to seduce the other's sweetheart. What begins as an elaborate joke turns into a dangerous game and we are never really sure whether true love can triumph.

The Samling Foundation has been working with some of the world's greatest artists since 1996 nurturing outstanding young singers as they embark upon their professional careers. Now through Samling Opera, directed by the foundation's Patron Sir Thomas Allen, and in partnership with Learning and Participation at The Sage Gateshead, they have taken 42 teenagers on a creative journey through the opera and this new, simply staged production. This CD-ROM shows you what they discovered along the way.

www.samlingopera.org

The Samling Foundation
The Sage Gateshead

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SAMLING OPERA

The Samling Foundation
NURTURING TALENTED YOUNG ARTISTS

SAMLING OPERA

così fan tutte

Educational CD-ROM Resource

Samling Opera's innovative educational CD-ROM, based on its production of *Così fan tutte* in partnership with The Sage Gateshead, is getting ready for lift off this Summer.

This interactive CD-ROM, intended for schools in the North East and national distribution, is quite unique. Research has shown that there isn't anything quite like it available as an educational resource.

From a rap artist in Birmingham interpreting recitative for today's students, to the cast and director taking them through the characters and plot, it offers teachers and students new and exciting ways of delivering the National Curriculum and at the same time strips away, once and for all, the myth that opera is for the few. Mozart still speaks to these young people and to us all; like Shakespeare or Picasso he proves that great art is not only 'for all time' but for all people too.

For further information on the CD-ROM please contact The Samling Foundation on 01434 602885.

Don't miss out

As you can see from the pictures the sun shone gloriously at last year's Party in the Garden but whatever the weather this year's event – on Sunday 25th June at Dilston House, Corbridge - is going to be unmissable.

We've got lots lined up (including plenty of cover in case it rains!) As well as paintings by Enrique Azocar, Emma Holliday, Julian Vilarrubi and Harry Bell, there will also be an array of beautiful ceramics and textile art. An eclectic mix of live music – easy listening from Jambone Jazz ensemble, folk and classical sounds from Peter Tickell and the vibrant and uplifting beat of Steelquake.



The ever popular auction will also include a rather special painting. The beautiful watercolour, which has featured on all our anniversary literature called 'Samling Time' and painted by Samling Scholar Carolyn Dobbin, will be up for grabs.

"I painted it during a magical Samling Masterclass week on the shores of Lake Ullswater. It holds a lot of wonderful memories for me but I'm more than happy to donate it to such a fantastic organisation if it helps raise money for The Samling Foundation and the valuable work they do in music and the visual arts," said Carolyn Dobbin.

Tickets for the Party in the Garden are priced at £15 per person or £35 per family and include a delicious barbecue lunch and afternoon tea. They are available only from The Samling Foundation on 01434 602885.



Dates for your diary

Sunday 23rd April

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

Tickets are priced at £15 and include a glass of wine and canapés before the concert at 7.00pm in the historic Tithe Barn. They are available from The Samling Foundation on 01434 602885 or visit www.samlingfoundation.org Tickets are also available from Tullie House Museum 01228 534781; Bookends 01228 529067 both in Castle Street, Carlisle.

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 Njabulo Madlala, Anna Stéphany, Pumeza Matshikiza, Nicky Spence and schools in Northumberland culminating in a concert on Friday 22nd September Hall 1, The Sage Gateshead, 7pm.



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, Patrice Lamure and Benedict Nelson.

Masterclass Wednesday 22nd November 2-5pm

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, Isobel Buchanan, Lucy Crowe, Anna Grevelius, Adrian Ward, James Harrison and Southbank Sinfonia conducted by Simon Over. Cadogan Hall, London 7.30pm.

For details about the Gala Concert at Cadogan Hall on Friday December 8th and 'Elijah' at Westminster Cathedral, also with Southbank Sinfonia, on Wednesday 6th December please contact The Samling Foundation.

The Samling Foundation

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