

The Samling Foundation
NURTURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISTS

NEWS

SUMMER 2001

ISSUE 2

Just for you!

This is the one we have been waiting for! We have all been tantalised too long by Sir Tom and Pat's impromptu performances in our Masterclass Gala Concerts and at last we are offering a night in their company alone. Accompanied by our friend Malcolm in a programme of music that is as diverse as it is entertaining these three internationally renowned artists come together in a unique evening especially for us on Saturday June 16th at Penrith Methodist Church. All three artists have kindly waived their fees and we are hoping to raise at least £10,000 towards our rolling programme of Masterclass and Residency opportunities with young professionals and school-children in the North East and Cumbria.

Tickets are on sale now.

We have a limited number at £75, which will secure for you the best reserved seats, drinks and canapés in the interval and a superb supper with the artists at Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel after the concert. Alternatively you can telephone us to reserve your seats priced £17.50 / £15 (concessions) for the concert only, or you can call in at Bluebell Bookshop in Penrith to collect them in person.



Patricia MacMahon, Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau

Regional Arts Lottery Award

The Foundation was delighted to receive a Regional Arts Lottery award of £20,000 towards our Outreach programme this year. The money is to help us bring masterclass and visual arts opportunities to a wider public, especially school children in the North East and Cumbria.

The Samling Picnic

Raising Funds for
The Samling Foundation

at Dilston House, Corbridge
on Sunday 24th June 2001

Traditional and Classical Music

Art Exhibition
Auction

Barbecue Lunch
Champagne and Strawberries
Afternoon Tea Wine Bar/Pimms

Pony Rides, Football Penalties,
Golf, Face Painting

Tickets including Lunch and Tea
Adults £15.00/Children £5.00

Family Ticket
2 adults and up to 4 children £35

Telephone: 01434 602885

Letter from L.A.

I'm looking down on West Los Angeles from the 26th floor apartment I've been occupying here since the end of our fifth annual week of Samling Masterclasses. In fact were the smog, fog or pollution to clear and the even taller building that stands between me and it, I might even be able to see the famed Hollywood sign. But perhaps one should be thankful for small mercies. I don't mean to criticise at all, but it has to be said that Los Angeles is a very strange and unusual place in the vast state of California.

After my first night - I'm here to perform the role of Malatesta in *Don Pasquale* - I took off to a place in the high desert some 200 plus miles North of here. I stayed over the Easter weekend at a small one-horse town called Lone Pine. It had been recommended, though I'm not sure why. Certainly the view of Mount McKinley, highest mountain in the contiguous United States, with its snow-covering was spectacular. I could admire it from the front door of my motel suite named after Randolph Scott the movie star. Notice how quickly I adapt to American jargon. Each time I arrive in America I become increasingly aware of the old Churchillian fact that we are two nations separated by a more or less common tongue. This time I'm dealing with the fact that water stays in the bath, sorry, the tub thanks to a tub stopper and not a bath plug. The water has filled the bath from the faucet, not the tap, the wrapping around the plants in the nursery the other day was burlap and not sacking. The list could go on and on but that would make the letter far less interesting than it might otherwise be so I shall bring it to a close.

Actually the transition from Northern England to here was not too bad, since unusually the weather was quite cold and I found myself one evening driving back from Palm Springs, following some retail therapy, through a sleet storm and a temperature that had dropped to 33 degrees - in old money that is. The biggest of all pills to swallow for a Brit in this country might possibly be the cost of petrol - gas. I fill my little rented Toyota for \$18 about £12.50 at the moment. Someone tell Mr. Blair please - oh sorry, I

remember now that we've been through all that! We're able to keep abreast of the news via the internet I'm glad to say, otherwise one reads little in the US papers of the rest of the world, especially on the West Coast. Distance here has various effects. It seems to insulate the community from what does go on elsewhere in the world and to some extent in the further reaches of their own community.

But people-watching in California provides the greatest interest, not to say amusement and occasionally horror. Nowhere else on the planet does the human form achieve such obese outlandish shape, the direct result of the mass of food that is constantly available and where the quality of so much of it is measured by height rather than the skill in its preparation. For those who can afford it of course there is a range of solutions available. And the old grim reaper himself can be denied here. I've looked at so many immovable faces here now and been mystified by the elusive beauty of collagen injected lips, that seem only to create a display space for what looks like raw meat - at least as far as my taste buds will allow!

I battle on - singing and painting as often as possible for an exhibition in Chelsea in June. Two more shows and your very own Alistair Cooke is out of here and looking forward to the cold of the English spring/summer. Do you remember the expression 'Don't look a gift horse in the mouth'? Well don't worry, I treat every moment here as an absolute gift. I'm fortunate to have these chances to share in different cultures - but someone please explain the mystery of collagen to me . . .

Tom



Thomas Allen in Masterclass with New Zealand born Samoan bass baritone Jonathan Lemalu during the Fifth Annual Masterclass Week in March

Alumni Show

For the second year running the Foundation's Alumni have been invited to give an exhibition of new work at the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick

It is nearly three years since Ruth Stage's last very successful show at Dovenest. She is an exceptionally gifted young painter whose work continues to develop and mature. Her paintings explore the beauty and poignancy found in the everyday in a unique and highly individual way. She seeks out high places from where she can telescope the relationships between people and the landscape they inhabit. Her work is eminently collectable as her growing portfolio of major corporate and private collectors will testify.

A winner of the prestigious Villiers David Award, Ruth travels extensively around Britain to paint and has visited her native North East, the Lake District and the South Coast for this exhibition. She has also painted London, where she lives and works. In 1999 she was elected to membership of the New English Art Club.

Why not come and see her work for yourself at a Private View on Friday 27th July 2001 (RSVP 01434 602885)

Exhibition dates Wednesday 25th July – Saturday August 25th.



'The Roseland Peninsula' (122 X 112 cm)
Medium: Egg Tempera and Watercolour

Felicity Palmer

Great news! In spite of funding being an ever-present challenge we are able to offer our unique masterclass experience to six more young singers this year. The international mezzo-soprano Felicity Palmer CBE joins our masterclass programme for the first time when she will lead a course over three days on Ullswater, giving a public masterclass on Saturday 24th November at Penrith.

As one of the most versatile singers

performing today, equally at home in music as diverse as Handel, Wagner and Berio, Felicity regularly performs throughout the world in opera, concert and recital. She is constantly in demand as a recording artist and has an extensive catalogue of discs including works by Stravinsky, Britten and Tippett. Auditions for places take place in London in July.

Tickets will be on sale from September.

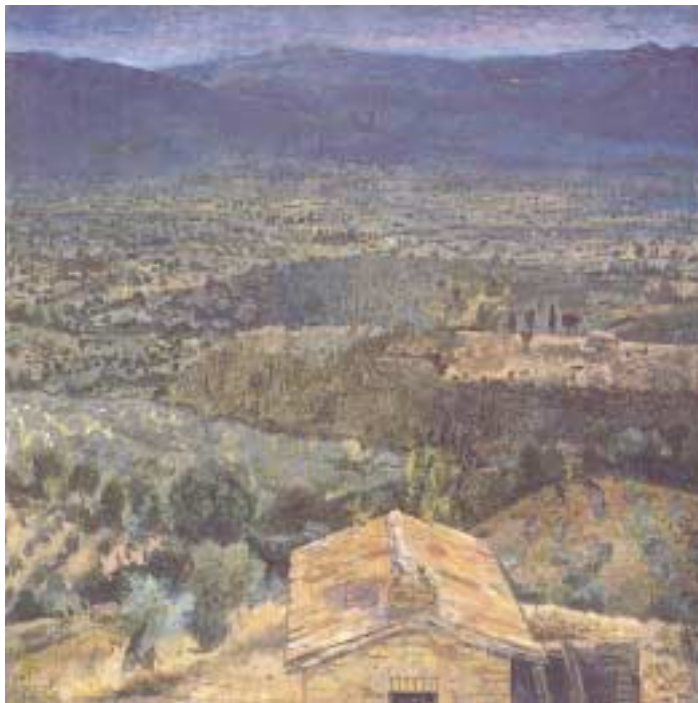
Divining

The Northumbrian coast has offered abundant opportunities and challenges for the 12 'A' Level Art students taking part in the Foundation's first residency project in the North East. Under the guidance of photographer Dan May the students have been responding to the landscape in their own highly individual ways. Asked to photograph something, a scene or even a fragment that they felt summed up the essence of the place, they have produced some outstanding images. 'I hoped they'd feel the pull of gravities on location, sense when they had made that precise connection with what they see and feel being there, and they have,' said Dan.

The work, which will be submitted as part of their 'A' Level portfolio along with the drawings and oil studies they completed with painter Angela Hughes before Christmas, will be shown at a special exhibition in the Squires Foyer at the University of Northumbria in September. At the same time Northumbria Gallery will show the work of the three professional artists, Angela, Dan and the poet Matthew Clegg, who have been working for the past year on shared themes and ideas.

As a result of the success of this collaboration with Newcastle Education Department, the Foundation has been asked to consider offering the experience of working with professional artists to many more students next year. This is currently being explored with Gateshead, South Tyneside, North Tyneside and Sunderland authorities, along with Newcastle.

Umbrian School



'The Valley of Umbria' by Julian Vilarrubi
Medium: oil on canvas 46 x 46cm

Samling Alumnus Julian Vilarrubi who exhibited at Keswick for us last year, has started running practical art courses in the Umbrian landscape of Italy. Based near Assisi in and around the hilltop village of Gualdo Cattenoe his course offers abundant visual opportunities for beginners and non beginners alike. The Friends of the Foundation were his first clients last Autumn and have written to us to report that at the end of the holiday they had all improved by leaps and bounds. 'Julian's

inspirational teaching by subtle suggestion combined with an inspirational location made it a wonderful stress free week. Through the week a growing hoard of studies, canvasses and sketches stimulated much discussion and inspiration,' wrote Josie and Keith Dean, of Clapham. Julian, who lives in Brighton, is giving his first solo show in London later this year at the Coombs Contemporary Gallery, October 31st - November 11th.

For more information about Santi Pittori Art Holidays:
01273 695516.

Why not become a Member or a Friend?

Our new scheme offers a wide range of benefits including:

Member

£20 pa – March to February
Free newsletter
10% discount on all tickets

Friend

£250 pa per person – (March to February)
Free newsletter
Acknowledgement in all Foundation literature
20% discount on all tickets

Sponsorship packages available on request.

Diary Dates 2001

Saturday 16th June 2001 - Thomas Allen and Patricia MacMahon

Sir Thomas Allen and Patricia MacMahon with pianist Malcolm Martineau come together for a unique evening of music, a fund-raising gala concert.

Sunday 24th June 2001 - The Samling Picnic

Our second party in the garden at Dilston House, Corbridge with live music, an art exhibition, barbecue lunch and afternoon tea – a fun day for all the family.

Wednesday 25th July - Saturday 25th August 2001 - The Foundation Alumni Exhibition

Our second Alumni show at The Theatre by the Lake, Keswick will feature the work of Ruth Stage, landscape painter.

Private View Friday 27th July.

Friday 14th September - Friday 12th October 2001 - 'Divining'

Three young professional artists have been chosen to participate in the Foundation's first residency project in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The landscape painter Angela Hughes, photographer Dan May and poet Matthew Clegg have been invited to explore shared themes and ideas resulting in a major exhibition at the University of Northumbria Gallery in the city centre. As part of this residency the artists have worked with 12 talented 'A' Level Art students, whose work will also be exhibited in the Squires Foyer at the University.

Private View Thursday 13th September.

Saturday 20th October 2001 - Nuccia Focile and Paul Charles Clarke

In Verdi's Centenary year Nuccia and Paul will perform an evening of Italian songs, arias and duets with pianist Michael Pollock.

Saturday 24th November 2001 - Masterclass

Felicity Palmer and Malcolm Martineau put six outstanding young international singers through their paces.

Concerts and masterclasses are to be held at Penrith Methodist Church

Concert and Masterclass Weekends at Sharrow Bay

With two concerts and masterclass weekends to look forward to this year, Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel on Lake Ullswater have offered the Foundation's Friends an exclusive package for all those who would like to be resident. Along with the warmest of welcomes it includes the following:

Friday evening

- Champagne reception with canapés
- Dinner with the artists (and including wine, coffee, cognac and liqueurs)

Saturday

- Full English breakfast or equivalent
- Champagne reception with canapés

- Coach transfer to Penrith
- VIP concert ticket and complimentary programme
- Interval drinks with canapés
- Post concert buffet supper with the artists (including wine, coffee, cognac and liqueurs)

Sunday

- Full English breakfast or equivalent

Prices – Premier Rooms £240 per person, per night (inclusive of V.A.T.)
Standard Rooms £190 per person, per night (inclusive of V.A.T.)

Please contact Nigel Lightburn on 017684 86301 for further details.

The Samling Foundation

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