

# New look

It really is a case of 'out with the old and in with the new' for 2008 as we begin the year by unveiling Samling's fresh new look.

The new look involves a significant change for the charity through re-branding, as Karon Wright, artistic director, explained.

"Following a thorough review of the organisation and its activities we recognised that after eleven years, although we have much to be proud of, we needed to make certain changes to take us forward and ensure our continued success."

Among these changes perhaps the most striking is in the name, strapline and logo. "We've found over the years that the word 'Foundation' can be misleading. Although we are a registered charity we do not make grants to other organisations or individuals as the name 'Foundation' might imply. To simplify things and so that it is absolutely clear we'll now be known as 'Samling'," said Karon.

The new strapline – 'Inspiring Musical Excellence in Young People' – also means that the organisation has decided to concentrate solely on its musical roots. "We've done some fantastic visual arts projects over the years, particularly **arena** with Anthony Gormley, but feel that we need to focus on what we are best known for – music and namely, Masterclass," she explained.



"Our Masterclass Programme, over the next five years, will be developed to include a Summer School and all our projects will reflect the developing role of our Scholars as central to Samling and the work we do," she added.

The new logo, therefore, has been designed to give the charity a more contemporary edge and convey a clear message. "We want to achieve widespread name recognition for Samling as an organisation that is synonymous with excellence in music and learning for young people of all ages, so it's important that our logo reflects this".

This re-branding process also includes a complete overhaul of Samling's website. "We've updated the website to make it more user-friendly, easier to navigate and more interactive.

"Our Scholars are given much greater prominence and the opportunity to personally update their pages so that everyone can keep abreast of their progress and news," added Karon.

The website will, as always, provide up-to-date news of developments and forthcoming events but now also gives you the chance to have your say. "Communication with our friends, supporters and audience is very important to us, so to acknowledge this, the website now features a message board, which we hope people will find useful and an effective way of feeding back to us."

**Our new website – [www.samling.org.uk](http://www.samling.org.uk) – goes online on January 31st 2008. We look forward to hearing from you.**

## Scholar in the making

Pictured left is Portuguese soprano Carla Caramujo who will become a Samling Scholar in February when she takes part, along with five other young international singers, in our first Masterclass of the year - see page two for more details.

### Inside this issue

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New Faces...What's in store for the first one of the year ... and as Masterclass goes from strength to strength we add another one to the calendar.

#### One of the Family

An interview with Caroline Dowdle.

#### Chris all set for Salzburg

A year on from playing his debut role as Don Giovanni in Samling Opera's critically acclaimed production, Christopher Maltman is heading to Salzburg to play it again.

#### Kate's bravery proves inspirational

How Samling Scholar Kate Manley's plight and bravery inspired the birth of a new charity to help young singers.

#### Diaries at the ready

We map out important dates for the forthcoming year.

# All things Masterclass

It's been at the heart of everything we've done over the past eleven years and continues to go from strength to strength. In 2008 we're introducing Amanda Roocroft to the Masterclass team for the first time and adding another week to the calendar.

First things first though. We're very lucky to have one of the country's best-loved mezzo-sopranos, Della Jones, to lead our February Masterclass before she leaves for Innsbruck to begin rehearsals for a brand new production of *Turn of the Screw*.

"I leave the week after Masterclass for rehearsals for this exciting new production in which I play Mrs Grose," said Della. "But I'm really delighted that I'm able to do Masterclass beforehand and especially with Paul Farrington – it's something I enjoy enormously.

"Working very closely with such a talented group of people is always a joy but what makes it special is the Samling Masterclass format. Throughout the week, tucked away from the rest of the world, these young singers are given the opportunity to really lose their inhibitions and develop in a way that isn't possible elsewhere," she said.

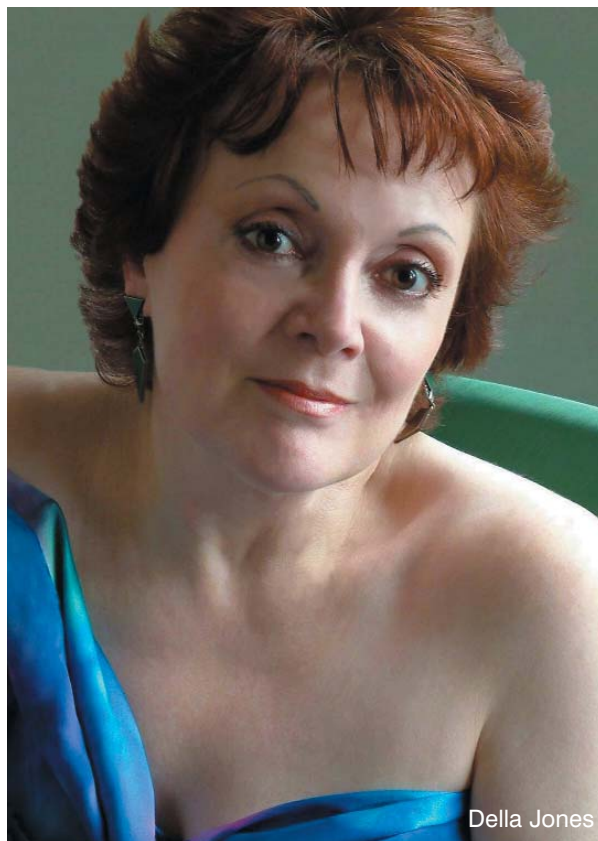
"Because we're virtually living together 24 hours a day for a week we get to know each other really well. Having this time together means that as a teacher I can discover the personalities behind the voices, which is very important. And the young singers begin to draw on and support each other, which is quite magical," added Della.

In June, for the second of our three Masterclasses this year, we're absolutely delighted to welcome soprano Amanda Roocroft to the team.

"Amanda Roocroft was recently awarded the 2007 Laurence Olivier Award for her performance in the title role of ENO's *Jenufa* and has secured an international reputation as one of Britain's most exciting singers," said Karon Wright, artistic director of Samling. "We're thrilled she's joining the team and we hope it will be the first of many Masterclasses with us."

Our last Masterclass of the year, which will be in October, brings the original team together again. Led by our Patron Sir Thomas Allen with support from Patricia MacMahon and Paul Farrington, they will be working with six of the eighteen singers we have chosen for Masterclass this year, following three days of auditions in London and Glasgow. "We heard over seventy young singers – the standard was exceptional and some tough decisions had to be made - but we are confident that this year's classes will fully meet the standards we have set over the past eleven years," said Karon.

**Dates and details of all three Masterclasses are listed under diary dates on the back page of this newsletter – with the Open Afternoons on a Thursday this year and the concerts on a Sunday evening make sure to put them into your diary now!**



Della Jones



Pictured (left of the piano) are Graeme Twaddle and Anthony Grezo of UBS Wealth Management with all the Masterclass team and participants at The Sage Gateshead in November 2007. Our thanks and appreciation go to UBS Wealth Management who supported Samling Masterclass for three years.

"As an organisation our policy is to support cultural work nationally and internationally, like the London Symphony Orchestra, Verbier Festival Orchestra and Tate Modern. The work that Samling does with young singers through its excellent Masterclass programme fits perfectly with this policy and we've been very happy to support them over this period," said Paddy Lewis, investment director at UBS Wealth Management.

Thanks to UBS

# One of the family

As part of an occasional series we put the spotlight on individual members of our Masterclass team and find out a little bit about their lives and what makes them tick. This time it's the turn of South African born pianist, Caroline Dowdle.

Carrie studied music at the University of Cape Town, where she was taught by the distinguished chamber music pianist Lamar Crowson. After post-graduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and two years as a Junior Fellow in Accompaniment she moved to London to pursue a freelance career.

Carrie first heard of Samling in 1997 when her then flatmate, soprano Anita Morrison, arrived home full of inspiration after spending a week with Sir Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon and other Scholars at a Samling Masterclass.

"I remember then thinking what a wonderful experience it must have been, so imagine my delight when I got a call a few years later inviting me to come and accompany the singers," said Caroline.

Needless to say, she's been a valued member of the team ever since, working not only on Masterclass but on both Samling's opera productions – *Così fan tutte* in 2005 and *Don Giovanni* last summer. "You live, eat, drink, socialise and work together intensively for a week so you really get to know the singers. There really isn't anything quite like it - it's incredibly hard work but very fulfilling," added Caroline.

Working with singers is something Caroline finds fascinating. "Singing is the purest form of music – there's nothing else involved – I believe most musicians would love to be singers," she said. "They usually come from very varied backgrounds, which I think makes them infinitely more interesting and fascinating to be around," she said.

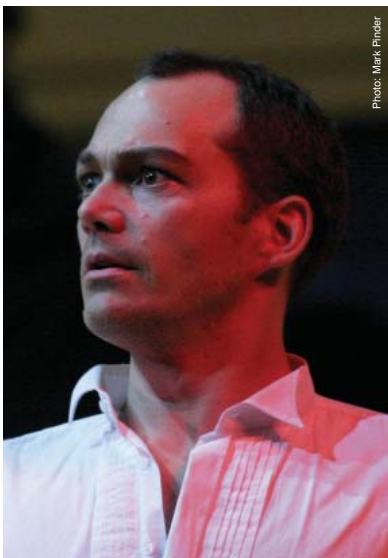
Which is just as well, as she is around them on a daily basis. "As well as living with a singer, my partner James Oxley, I'm also a member of staff on the Young Artists Programme at Covent Garden and regularly appear on the concert platform as an accompanist," added Caroline.



Although she loves working with singers, another important part of Caroline's life is performing as part of a trio. "I actually met both musicians – cellist Rosie Biss and violinist André Swanepoel – when I was working on Samling's production of *Così fan tutte* at The Sage Gateshead," she explained.

"We're called Cygnus and we play together whenever we can – performing at festivals and such like. Obviously, rehearsal time can prove difficult as I'm based in London and they're in the North East, but we're all really committed and passionate about what we do - so we find a way. Thanks to Samling I'm quite often in the region!"

Caroline Dowdle will be back with the Masterclass team in February, June and October – see diary dates for more details.



## Chris all set for Salzburg

We're delighted to hear that following his critically acclaimed debut performance as Don Giovanni in Samling Opera's production last year, Christopher Maltman is all set to play the role again at what is arguably the world's greatest music festival.

"With my Don Giovanni debut still buzzing around my head, I recently received the news that another opportunity to sing this wonderful role has come my way. From Samling Opera at The Sage Gateshead to the Salzburg Festival no less. I will sing the 'Don' there next year in a new production by Claus Guth," said Christopher.

"I feel incredibly lucky to have been given the opportunity by Samling to lay such firm foundations in a role that I hope I will perform many times. I'll try to do my best to keep something of the intensity and simplicity of Tom's production with me amongst the glitz and glamour of Salzburg's notorious cognoscenti!"

**To find out more about this production and the Salzburg Festival go to [www.salzburgfestival.at](http://www.salzburgfestival.at)**

# Dates for your diary

## Samling Masterclass week

### Monday 4th – Monday 11th February

Led by Della Jones and Paul Farrington with pianists Caroline Dowdle and Christopher Glynn and six specially selected young singers.

#### Thursday 7th February, 2-5pm

Northern Rock Foundation Hall, The Sage Gateshead  
Samling Masterclass, tickets £7.50

#### Sunday 10th February, 7pm

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Samling Masterclass Concert, tickets £26, £18, £12, £6

## Samling Masterclass Week

### Monday 9th – Monday 16th June

Led by Amanda Roocroft, Malcolm Martineau and Paul Farrington with pianists Caroline Dowdle and Joseph Middleton and six specially selected young singers

#### Thursday 12th June, 2-5pm

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Samling Masterclass, tickets £7.50

#### Sunday 15th June

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Samling Masterclass Concert, tickets £26, £18, £12, £6  
Available from The Sage Gateshead:

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

Online: [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

There will be a number of special tickets, which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert. These are priced at £75 and will be available only from Samling: 01434 602885.

## Party in the Garden

Dilston House, Corbridge

### 29th June, 12 noon onwards

Live music, barbecue lunch, afternoon tea, auction and original art to buy

Tickets £35 per family or £15 per person available only from Samling: 01434 602885.

## Samling Masterclass Week

### Monday 6th – Monday 13th October

Led by Sir Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon and Paul Farrington with pianists Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle and six specially selected young singers.

#### Thursday 9th October, 2-5pm

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Samling Masterclass, tickets £7.50

#### Sunday 12th October, 7pm

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Samling Masterclass Concert, tickets £26, £18, £12, £6

Available from The Sage Gateshead:

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

Online: [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

There will be a number of special tickets, which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert. These are priced at £75 and will be available only from Samling: 01434 602885.

## Samling Foundation Showcase

### Friday 5th December, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Details coming soon

**All our events are listed on our website go to**

**[www.samlingonline.org](http://www.samlingonline.org) for regular updates**

# Kate's bravery proves inspirational

When Samling Scholar Kate Manley was diagnosed with breast cancer in April last year not only did she have to cope with a serious illness but also the stress of how to manage financially while she was having treatment.



Kate pictured here taking part in Samling's Outreach project working with schools in the Tyne Valley.

Photo: Maria Pinder

"If you're not working then there's no money – it's as simple as that," said Kate. "There are a few organisations that can help – like the Musicians Benevolent Fund – who fortunately helped me but on the whole there is very little support." It was when Kate was sharing her fears with some close friends that the idea to set up a charity specifically to help young singers in need came up as Jennifer Johnston, herself a singer, explained.

"Kate wrote a list of all the things she might need while she was having her treatment and, a bit like a jigsaw puzzle, we started to put all the pieces in place," said Jennifer.

The result is a brand new charity called the Young Singers' Welfare Foundation which aims to support any singer who is suffering from financial hardship because of a serious medical condition or illness.

The support the charity aims to give is not just financial either. "Our main aim is to give financial support but we also want to do more than just that - we want also to provide a referral service for beneficiaries to other organisations who may be able to help them," said Jennifer.

"We've had fantastic support from our Patron Sir Thomas Allen, whose step-daughter, an eminent psychologist, is offering sessions to help with emotional issues. Kate's surgeon Professor Kefah Mobel has offered to be on hand with guidance regarding treatment. We've also got Vernon Ellis, Chairman of English National Opera and Kate's singing teacher Lillian Watson on board – which is fantastic.

"Their involvement is testament to Kate – she really is one of the most wonderful, generous and brave people and she is the inspiration behind this new charity."

The Foundation ultimately wants to raise £500,000. "What we would like to do is set up an endowment to safeguard the charity for future generations," added Jennifer.

**If you would like to make a donation or find out more about the Young Singers' Welfare Foundation please go to [www.yswf.org](http://www.yswf.org)**

## Samling

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