

The Samling Foundation
NURTURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISTS

NEWS

AUTUMN 2001

ISSUE 3

Invitation to *'Divine'*

Blasted by winds, rain and sleet during one of the wettest winters this century and stymied by the Foot and Mouth ban on visiting the countryside, our artists in residence have battled on. But, as Blake had it, 'without contraries is no progression'.

Three young professionals were chosen last September to collaborate in the Foundation's first residency project in the North East. The landscape painter Angela Hughes,

photographer Dan May and poet Matthew Clegg were invited to explore shared themes and ideas. Location was the catalyst for all three and their exhibition 'Divining' reflects their individual response to place and the pull of 'gravities'. As part of the residency the artists worked with and alongside a group of specially selected 'A' Level Art students from Newcastle's Gosforth, Heaton Manor, Benfield, Sacred Heart, St Cuthbert's, St Mary's and

Southdown Drive

Your family house
Is sold, at last, so you're cut loose
From your one-time base.

In your Mum's new pad
You're a guest (like me), so we
Entwine, just this night,

In your sister's bed
Where kind suburban silence
Tucks in our Sunday.

Outside, foxes flit
Under cars, between bin bags,
arousing pet dogs

With their vixen scents.
We're so intense, now, catching
Each others gasps in

Our murmuring mouths -
Afraid if the household should stir
As our pulses chip

At our last constraints.
When the spell's broken, we try
not to think how low

down in this city
we could fall... Come morning, loud
kids are passing us

on their way to schools;
Their young accents sharp and clean
As light through clinking

Milk-bottles, lifted.

I try them out on my tongue -
Twee passports of sound.

Matthew Clegg

Walbottle High Schools. The response from the students, teachers, Newcastle Education Department and the Excellence in Cities Partnership has been unanimous. It has been an unqualified success. 'The project was 100 per cent successful, producing the highest possible standards of work from all the pupils, underpinning the value of projects like this,' said Gair Hedley, Newcastle's Strand Co-ordinator for the Gifted and Talented Programme. Carolle Morpeth, Head of Art at Sacred Heart, wrote to the Foundation to say that, as a result of the 'Samling experience' the school had revised its curriculum. From September it plans to offer all its pupils in Year 12 the experience of working on location and has devised art workshops off site. You can see for yourself the work produced during the residencies in two exhibitions running concurrently at the University Gallery and Squires Foyer at the University of Northumbria from Friday September 14th to Friday October 12th 2001.



Photography: Mark Pinder

Artists In Residence: Matt Clegg, Dan May and Angela Hughes

Samling Foundation Residency

The teaching element of the Samling Foundation Residency has been one of the most challenging professional projects I have undertaken over the past decade. To try and frame my own thoughts about photography and to find a way of conveying what for me has become an instinctive and intuitive process - that of visualising enduring images - would have been hard in itself. But to do this at a time when access to the land, the very source of the images was denied, and when the students themselves were heavily burdened with exams and considerations of further education, seemed at times like an insurmountable obstacle.

Despite this, the work that has been produced for the final show is both diverse and exciting. My aim throughout was to encourage the application of individual artistic skills and ideas to our projects and locations, not to allow my own thoughts and imagery to be imposed but rather to facilitate the development of each individual's vision.

Anyone who sees the collection of images that has been produced for the students' exhibition will, I hope, be as delighted as I am with what they have managed to achieve.

Dan May, Artist in Residence



And what the pupils said ...

'Working outdoors was the most enjoyable and challenging part of working with Angela and Dan. Sketching at the shipyard in mid November and crouching down on the edge of the Northumbrian Coast and getting completely soaked by the spray was definitely a change from my usual monotonous art sessions.'

Marc Bennett (St Cuthbert's High School)



'The photography project with Dan May introduced me to an entirely different aspect of art which I have hardly experimented with before. It has taught me to look at apparently mundane objects in a far more artistic and creative light as well as learning technical aspects of photography.'

Joanna Glover (Gosforth High School)



Although working outside on bitterly cold Saturday mornings seemed to be a recurring feature of Angela Hughes' residency, this nevertheless became part of the whole experience of working in the distinct surroundings of Swan Hunter's Shipyard.



Artwork by participating students

Much of the preliminary work was presented to us as set tasks, but it still allowed us to explore many different ways of approaching the subject matter and media available to us. I particularly enjoyed working from

observation on a larger scale as it gave me a chance to be more expressive and capture the atmosphere in the work I produced.

The tasks set by Dan May were much more liberal and gave us the opportunity to explore our own thoughts much earlier on. I was very interested in learning about how the camera and its different features allow a lot of flexibility when doing

photography. I was quite surprised to find several things that really motivated me and that I enjoyed photographing. Both the residencies have inspired me to be more ambitious in my art work and to use the new techniques I have learned from the artists.'

Anneliese Allen-Norris (Gosforth High School)



I have found that the Samling project has helped me to develop my own style. It has been very helpful and insightful to work with real

artists and learn about the methods they use to gain their results. The course has also given me opportunity to use materials that I have not had the chance to work on a large scale canvas with oils - something I would have found very hard to do in school, due to the sheer amount of paint

needed. Also working with Dan gave me a chance to experiment with photography for the very first time and we had the freedom to make mistakes which was very helpful!

Sasha Jackson (Sacred Heart High School)



Heavenly Pairing

Forget La Scala, Covent Garden and The Met. On October 20th Penrith Methodist Church is where it's at.

Opera stars Nuccia Focile and Paul Charles Clarke come straight to Cumbria from rehearsals in London to present for us an evening of Italian songs and opera in Verdi's centenary year. This is definitely one not to miss.

Both artists are stars in the world's leading houses. Nuccia, a favourite of Pavarotti, with whom she has sung on many occasions, has triumphed this year at Covent Garden in the role of Antonia in *Les Contes D'Hoffman* and later this year appears as Mimi in *La Boheme* at the Metropolitan Opera New York.

She has an extensive concert career and has sung regularly at the Edinburgh Festival in recital and often in concerts with Sir Charles Mackerras. Her operatic recordings include Eugene Onegin with Bychkov, *Così fan tutte*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*, all with Mackerras and *L'assedio di Calais* with David Parry. Other recordings include Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with Neville Marriner, *Frauenliebe und Leben*, Tosti songs and a solo album of Donizetti, Verdi and Puccini songs.

Paul's career has taken him many times to the United States where he has performed in all the main opera houses and in particular at the Metropolitan Opera in New York with James Levine. He debuted as Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* at the Deutsche Oper in Berlin and he has sung the same role for WNO.

He will repeat his success in the role of Alfredo in *La Traviata* at Covent Garden later this year singing opposite Renee Fleming in Houston.



Nuccia Focile

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 on 01434 602885 to reserve your seats priced £15/£12.50 (concessions) for the concert only, or you can call in at Bluebell Bookshop in Penrith to collect them in person.



Paul Charles Clarke

Summer fun boosts funds

The sun shone on us again this summer for two fundraising initiatives. Together the events raised a staggering £22,000 towards our rolling programmes of masterclass and residency opportunities for talented young people.

Friends basked in 80 degrees sunshine at the annual Samling picnic at our chairman's home at Dilston House, near Corbridge listening to jazz and big band sounds from Kintamarni saxophone quartet and the cooler strains of Kate Wilson's harp and Matthew Clegg's poetry readings. Sipping Pimms and

chatting to friends, they were also invited to wander through the house where over one hundred original artworks were exhibited courtesy of Tynedale Artists Network and our Alumni. A more chilly evening in Penrith saw our Patron Sir Thomas Allen and Patricia MacMahon with pianist Malcolm Martineau perform in a sell-out concert at Penrith's Methodist Church. Since then we have received many letters from the public and Friends saying how much they enjoyed this unique concert, the artistry, the informality and the sheer fun of it all!

Sharrow tunes in . . .

Sharrow Bay's top chefs Johnny Martin and Colin Akrigg are planning a gastronomic experience in keeping with the spirit of our Italian night of music in October.

Drawing from Italy's culinary riches and complemented by the finest Italian wines chosen by James Payne, 'Ruinart Champagne Sommelier of the Year', the hotel in its own inimitable way is planning an unforgettable weekend.

For concert weekend details please call Nigel Lightburn on 017684 86301

Our Young Musician



Peter Tickell, who impressed us once again with his playing at our garden party this summer, has got through to the second round of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition in Manchester in September. At just turned fifteen he is one of the youngest contestants. This year the Foundation has been helping Peter to raise funds for a new violin befitting his capabilities and over the past few

months he has been trying out various instruments. During the first round of the BBC competition, he played a loaned Italian 'Messori' violin which he described as 'rich, deep, elegant and very sensitive to play'. But at £15,000 it is way beyond his pocket! So far his fund for a new instrument stands at over £4000 and waiting! Anyone who feels they might be able to help please get in touch with us.

Samling Scholars Star at Proms

Four Samling scholars starred in the BBC's First Night of the Proms broadcast live from the Albert Hall on BBC 2, BBC Worldwide TV, BBC Radio 3 and the World Service and on Eurovision and United States cable

networks. James Rutherford, Jonathan Lemalu, Louise Mott and Sally Matthews took part in 'Serenade to Music' by Vaughan Williams with an estimated audience of tens of millions.

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

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

Masterclass News

Sixteen outstanding young professional singers from the UK, Sweden, Denmark and Canada have been chosen to take part in our Masterclass Programmes this year and next.

Over two days in July a panel, led by our Patron Sir Thomas Allen, listened to thirty five singers at the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Each was asked to bring their own pianist and perform a song and an aria.

'The standard this year was exceptionally high and that is due now in part to the recognition that what we offer is special and unique. Word is out and that is tremendously exciting,' said Sir Tom.

Friends will be able to hear and see for themselves the calibre of these young artists in November, when the international mezzo-soprano Felicity Palmer will be putting six of the chosen singers through their paces.

Concert and Masterclass Weekends at Sharrow Bay

With a concert and masterclass weekend to look forward to this Autumn, 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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