

*The Samling Foundation*  
NURTURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISTS

# NEWS

AUTUMN 2002

ISSUE 6

## SIMPLY THE BEST



Antony Gormley

**A**ntony Gormley returns to the North East to lead Arena, a year-long Samling Foundation project, involving five emerging professional artists and sixty 'A' Level art students, their teachers and the wider communities across Tyne and Wear. Together they will explore the definition of public art while making work for a variety of public spaces.

Arena is being made possible by a substantial Education award from NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) in recognition of The Samling Foundation's pioneering programmes working with gifted and

talented young artists. In providing a framework to enable a leading figure in the visual arts world to engage with and promote fresh thinking in the education sector, NESTA gave the project its full backing. In a creative partnership with BALTIC The Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, Excellence Challenge and the five 'Excellence in Cities' partnerships in Tyne and Wear (Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland), Arena will examine fundamentally the role of public art today. Each professional artist selected will receive a commission to work within an 'Arena' of their choice for a three month period to produce a piece of public art which can take any form. These 'Arenas', which still have to be finalised, might include media and broadcasting networks, public transport, shopping centres or within industry.

Photography: Mark Pinder

Andrew Dixon, Regional Executive Director of Northern Arts commented, 'Antony Gormley is simply the best. He is a hugely popular figure in the

North East. The Arena project is a real boost towards the ambitions of the Newcastle Gateshead bid for European Capital for Culture in 2008.'

In addition to the commissions there will be an on-line exhibition and CD-Rom, documenting and illustrating the works produced. Strong evaluation of the project will result in a model being created for masterclasses in visual arts that can be applied and adapted in other locations. Each 'A' Level student will have the unique opportunity of experiencing at first hand how an artist researches and develops an artwork and will be mentored by the artists

## GALA CONCERT



Sir Thomas Allen

**W**hat a line-up we have in store for you! On September 19th this very small charity will stage its London debut at the beautiful St John's in Smith Square.

We have chosen our cast from six years of masterclasses - four of the very best young singers that have passed through our programmes. All have already made their mark on the international concert platform and in opera houses such as Glyndebourne, Covent Garden and at the Edinburgh Festival. Patron Sir Thomas Allen and our masterclass team of soprano Patricia MacMahon, pianists Malcolm Martineau and Simon Over will all perform alongside them and to cap it all the inimitable Romanian soprano Ileana Cotrubas will introduce the evening. The programme will reflect the work we encompass in our courses - the lieder repertoire and of course the very best of opera. The success of this fund-raising evening will underpin financially our masterclass programmes next year and we need your support more than ever to make this evening a success.

*Ticket information on page two.*

to help them to develop their own ideas. NESTA Education Director, Gareth Binns, said of the award: 'We were particularly impressed by Samling's ethos and energy in providing the right environment for gifted and talented individuals to flourish. At NESTA it is one of our key aims to nurture and support creativity in young people and I am confident that Arena will ignite and unearth some truly imaginative work and talent. We are delighted that a world renowned artist such as Antony Gormley is to mentor a new generation of artists.' The award of £116,790 - more than half of the overall cost of the project which will cost £224,000 - will go towards artists' fees, materials, planning costs, interviews, commissions, project management and evaluation. Additional funding will come from the five LEAs, Northern Rock Foundation and the Samling Foundation, with in-kind costs from BALTIC The Centre for Contemporary Art.

# Land and The Samling



Photography: Mark Pinder

**E**lpida Hadzi-Vasileva's 'Road to Nowhere', made from huge sections of cress grown on matting in specially constructed wooden frames, was floated on a silent inlet of Kielder Water at the end of the artist's one month residency at Kielder in July. It mirrors the old road that disappears into the same inlet and remains beneath the water, a result of the flooding of the valley and its rural community when the reservoir was built. For the other artists too, Tanya Axford, Claire Barber, Matt Stokes and Wolfgang Weiler, the residency had provided the opportunity to develop completely new work in response to the dramatic man-made landscape.

This summer saw the culmination of the pilot project for Arena, 'Land and the Samling' when five emerging artists each received a commission and in turn mentored 60 gifted 'A' Level art students. During a week of intensive residential workshops in Kielder Forest the artists worked with the students who made artworks in the forest. The breadth of ideas the students brought with them was huge – and the

resulting work just as diverse. Stuart Wheeler, for instance, brought everything with him he needed to make his piece, including the mannequin begged from a department store by his grandmother on his behalf!

We were very keen to learn from all of their experiences and through anonymous questionnaires, interviews and through a video box we established that more than anything else, they had been 'inspired'. As one student said: 'I feel I was able to experiment with new artistic ideas with no boundaries (ie school teachers and materials).' And another: 'This project had no limits, unlike my A level projects. Therefore I felt I could challenge myself and do something I've never done before.'

An exhibition of photographs taken by Mark Pinder documenting the project will tour throughout Tyne and Wear this autumn. (Dates and venue information in 'Diary Dates 2002' on page four.) Catalogues of the artists' and students' work are also being produced. For further details please contact us on 01434 602885.



Photography: Mark Pinder

Sculpture by Stuart Wheeler from St Thomas More R.C. High School, North Tyneside

## Gala Concert

St John's, Smith Square,

September 19th 2002

With Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon,  
Malcolm Martineau  
and Simon Over with Samling Scholars Lisa  
Milne, Leigh Woolf, Jonathan Lemalu and  
Eric Reiger

With an Introduction by Ileana Cotrubas

Tickets: £25, £18 and £10 (restricted view)  
Box Office: 020 7222 1061.

Tickets including dinner with the Artists after  
the performance in

The Footstool Restaurant available now

01434 602885

£150

# Masterclass



Photography: Mark Pinder

Paul Farrington

## Travels with my Larynx (and other people's)

**Everyone knows Sir Tom and the other principals who took their bows after the last Gala concert, but who was the little guy invited to join them? Paul Farrington has often been asked what his role is in the 'team' that makes the Samling Masterclasses totally unique. Here is his response...**

Officially I am a vocal consultant (one of only two in the UK) but it is probably more useful to see me as a vocal mechanic. I fix the bits that are not working quite as they should. Just as Venus and Serena Williams have their coach/father advising them during the matches, the singers at the Samling need the attention to technical detail that makes all the difference between a good vocal performance and one that magically moves the audience.

Why consulting rather than sing myself? Yes, I did train and toured the opera and oratorio circuit but I knew from early in my career that I would rather teach. So soon after graduating from what is now the Birmingham Conservatoire, I attended one of the first UK Voice Science conferences. When I found myself staring at a huge video screen filled with a larynx, I was transfixed. Though I had spent five years studying voice, no one had ever mentioned the larynx, let alone shown me one or explained how it works. One reason is, of course, that it is only in the last 25 years that the equipment to show this detail has been developed so that we can see what happens when we speak or sing. The sports world is light years ahead in working with the physical potential of its performers. Singers have historically been trained on a diet of myth, magic, and a

## Masterclass Gala Concert

*with*

**Thomas Allen,  
Patricia MacMahon,  
pianists Malcolm Martineau and  
Simon Over**

*and*

**Emma Gane, Anouschka Lara,  
Trine Møller, Helen Withers,  
Richard Morrison and  
Adrian Dwyer**

**7 p.m. Saturday November 2nd  
Penrith Methodist Church**

Tickets £17.50 and £15 (concessions)

Tickets, including dinner with the Artists  
after the performance,  
at Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel,  
Ullswater £75

Available now 01434 602885

dose of 'Do it like I do darling' from their teachers.

But the occasion that actually changed my life was a course with the renowned US Voice Researcher, Jo Estil. Her system of vocal training, based on 30 years of research, was my road to Damascus

conversion. For the first time the workings of the voice were explained – and how sounds can be produced when they are wanted, without thinking of pink fluffy clouds or blue streamers coming out of a certain part of my anatomy!

I am now one of only 11 people worldwide licensed by Jo Estil to teach her work. She is now over 80, still researching in California, but not on the road teaching courses. Since 1990 at the invitation of the senior ENT consultant at University Hospital Birmingham I've been part of the Voice Clinic for Professional Voice Users, alongside their leading Speech and Language Therapist. We see mainly singers and actors, but also teachers, clergy, salesmen, politicians, radio presenters, basically anyone who uses their voice for professional purposes and who is having vocal difficulties.

A 'voice problem' is one of the great taboos in the singing world. No one talks about it, because very few people would ever admit to having difficulties with their instrument. And yet, as with any other set of muscles that must work together, the potential for injury is very real. Having a cold, being overtired, jetlagged or not having a role fully integrated into the body and the voice can result in distortion or over compensation. The vocal mechanism is out of kilter. Very often the singer can do this for some time without realizing it, until the voice starts to kick back and the muscles refuse to respond. This can be devastating and many singers have entered my studio thinking that it was all over for them. When we understand how the mechanism works it is relatively easy to make the necessary

*(continued on page four)*



Photography: Mark Pinder

Kintamarni photographed by Mark Pinder at the annual Party in the Garden in June at Dilston House, Corbridge which raised almost £10,000 for the Foundation. For the third consecutive year the sun shone for us all day. A huge thanks to everyone who made it such a success.

(‘Travels with my Larynx’ continued from page three)

adjustments to the technique to bring the muscle balance back into alignment, thereby allowing the mechanism to respond to whatever the singer wants from it.

I have been fortunate to work with some of the most famous voices. Sometimes it is a ‘one off’ problem. With others it may be more regular, keeping the voice on track during, for instance, the hormonal changes which affect the female voice during the menopause. And there is no greater buzz in the world for me than hearing a singer I have worked with negotiate in performance that tricky point in an aria over which we have spent long hours.

And where do the Samling Masterclasses fit into this? They are one of the highlights of my working year. To be in a room with loved and respected colleagues and for us to be working together to help young singers take that leap of faith, is the most exhilarating experience. It has been a personal privilege to meet all the singers over the years and a number of them have subsequently come to study with me. All say that the Samling masterclasses were a life-changing experience on the journey to becoming, we all hope, the next generation of great singers.

You can see Paul and the team at work with six outstanding young singers on Thursday, 31st October, from 2 - 5 p.m. at Penrith Methodist Church. Tickets available now by calling 01434 602885.

## Diary Dates 2002

**February 11th\* – 12th ‘Land and the Samling’** The Foundation’s Visual Arts Residency Programme in the North East begins with a Symposium led by James Turrell in Masterclass with Elpida Hadzi Vasileva, Tanya Axford, Matt Stokes, Wolfgang Weileder and Claire Barber and attended by 60 participating ‘A’ Level Students and their teachers from Tyne and Wear.

*Symposium Venues: Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne University of Newcastle upon Tyne Fine Art Department* (\*A limited number of places are available for Friends on application.)

**April 25th – 28th Ileana Cotrubas and Thomas Allen** lead a unique Masterclass course on Lake Ullswater, culminating in a public masterclass with six specially selected outstanding young international singers on:

*Saturday April 27th 7 p.m. Penrith Methodist Church*

**May 30th – June 30th The Foundation Alumni Exhibition** will feature the work of Chilean artist Enrique Azócar, Circle Gallery, Theatre by the Lake, Keswick

*Private View: Thursday May 30th 5.30 – 7 p.m.*

**Thursday June 20th A Gala Evening with Katarina Karnéus and Rebecca Evans** with pianist Michael Pollock  
*7 p.m. King’s Hall, University of Newcastle upon Tyne*

**Sunday June 23rd The Samling Picnic** – the annual party in the garden at Dilston House, Corbridge with live music and art exhibition

**Thursday September 19th Gala Concert** with our Masterclass team, Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon, Malcolm Martineau and Simon Over with Samling Scholars Lisa Milne, Leigh Woolf, Jonathan Lemalu and Eric Reiger. Introduction by Ileana Cotrubas.  
*7.30 p.m. St John’s Smith Square, London*

**October, ‘Land and the Samling Exhibition’** The climax of the 2002 Artist in Residence programme with photographs by Mark Pinder documenting artworks created at Kielder Water and Forest Park, featuring the work of Elpida Hadzi Vasileva, Tanya Axford, Matt Stokes, Wolfgang Weileder, Claire Barber and the 60 participating ‘A’ Level students.

*Bedes World, Jarrow, 21st September - 6th October*

*Gosforth High School, Newcastle upon Tyne, 8th October - 18th October*

*The Arts Lounge, Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Sunderland, 21 October - 3 November*

*The Globe Gallery, North Shields, 16th November - 30th November*

*The Upstairs Gallery, Central Library, Gateshead, 2nd December 2002 - 13th January 2003*

**27th October – 3rd November, The Sixth Annual Masterclass Week** with Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington, Malcolm Martineau, Simon Over and this year’s ‘six’ specially selected young singers.

*Public Masterclass, Thursday October 31st 2.00 p.m. – 5 p.m.*

*Gala Concert, Saturday November 2nd 7 p.m.*

*Penrith Methodist Church*

**November ‘Arena’** Led by Antony Gormley, the second phase of the Foundation’s Visual Arts Residency Programme North East begins (to be completed in Autumn 2003). It will involve five specially selected professional young artists who will work on individual commissions, and with another group of talented and gifted ‘A’ Level Art students from across Tyne and Wear.

*Venue and dates to be confirmed later*

## WE HAVE MOVED!

Please note our new address is:

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Gilesgate  
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Northumberland  
NE46 3NP

Telephone, fax and e-mail as before: 01434 602885  
karon@wrighthex.freeserve.co.uk

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