

The Samling Foundation
NURTURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISTS

NEWS

SPRING 2003

ISSUE 7

Masterclass Gala Concert

**Sir Thomas Allen,
Patricia MacMahon**
*with pianists Simon Over and Julia Lynch
and*

**Amy Black, Lucy Crowe,
Sophie Graf, Bibi Heal,
John MacKenzie and Thomas Walker**

Saturday April 5th 7 p.m.

Penrith Methodist Church

Tickets £17.50, £15 concessions

Available from Bluebell Bookshop, Penrith or
The Samling Foundation Office

Tickets including dinner with the Artists
after the performance,

at Sharrow Bay County House Hotel,
Ullswater £75

Available now Tel/fax 01434 602885
enquiries@samlingfoundation.org

arena launched



Photography: Mark Pinder

The arena artists (foreground left to right) Tom Woolford, Carl von Weiler, Antony Gormley, Louise K. Wilson, Runa Islam and Wolfgang Weileder, pictured with sixty of Tyne and Wear's most gifted art students.

arena, the Samling Foundation's groundbreaking public art initiative in the North East has got off to the best possible start. The Launch, early in February, brought together the key participants for the first time at BALTIC, The Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead. After months of hard work and preparation, world-renowned artist Antony Gormley, who is leading the

project, said that 'we couldn't have had a better first day'.

After a rigorous shortlisting and interview process five emerging professional artists have been selected to participate. They are Runa Islam, Wolfgang Weileder, Carl von Weiler, Louise K. Wilson and Tom Woolford.

continued on page two

arena

arena launched *(continued from page one)*

Each artist will receive a major public art commission to work within an 'arena' of their choice for a three month period and produce a piece of public art which can take any form.

These 'arenas' will be carefully chosen by the artists and might include transport networks, business, industry or the broadcasting media.

Sixty of Tyne and Wear's most gifted 'A' Level Art students have also been selected to work alongside them. After a week of interviews, with over 120 students being given the opportunity to impress, the Foundation feels confident that it has a very special group of young people on board. Each student will have the opportunity of experiencing at first hand how an artist researches and creates an artwork, and will work alongside them throughout – an experience few receive, even at University.

Together, Antony Gormley, the artists and students will be given time to talk, listen and explore the parameters of public art and its relationship to different environments and the wider communities. As part of the Launch the five groups visited potential sites across the region before returning to BALTIC to focus on the work ahead.

The £224,000 arena project is being part-funded by a £116,790 education award from NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts). The Chairman, Lord Puttnam, said 'NESTA is delighted to be supporting this exciting public art and education initiative. We were particularly impressed by Samling's ethos and commitment to provide exactly the right environment in which gifted and talented students could flourish. One of NESTA's key aims is to nurture and support creativity in young people and I feel certain that arena will unearth some truly imaginative talent. It's tremendous to attract a world-renowned artist such as Antony Gormley to mentor this new generation of artists.'

Additional funding will come from the five LEAs involved (Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland), Northern Rock Foundation, Northern Arts and the Samling Foundation, with in-kind costs and organisational support from BALTIC, The Centre for Contemporary Art, a key partner in the project.

Pictured right:
Wolfgang Weileder,
Antony Gormley
and Runa Islam



Photography: Mark Pinder

the foundation *going live!*

The long-awaited www.samlingfoundation.org website is now online! We are delighted with this new site, the result of many months of collaboration with Sound Ideas. Log onto the site to find out up to the minute information about the work of The Samling Foundation. From the beginnings of the Foundation to the future projects, the website will give you all the information you need. We hope you will find the site clear and user-friendly.

The home page gives a guide to each area of the site. From here, you can navigate to; About the Foundation, Diary of Events, Events Archive, Visual Arts Projects, Masterclasses, The Leaders, The Guest Artists, The Alumni, How to Join, Press and Publicity and Contact Details. You will be able to contact us via the website, buy tickets for events and feed back on any aspect of our work. You can follow the progress of the talented young people who have been supported by the Foundation and learn more of the great artists who have taught them. You can read about future events here before they are publicised anywhere else. The site will be regularly updated, so return often to find out our latest developments.



arena *online*



A website dedicated exclusively to arena, our major public arts initiative will also be launched soon. Log onto www.arenaproject.org to see this ever-evolving site, charting the progress of the arena project as it takes shape.

Visit the 'arenas' and watch the works develop online throughout the project period, then see the site become an on-line exhibition of the finished works when the project draws to a close in June 2003.

Runa Islam, Wolfgang Weileder, Carl von Weiler, Louise K. Wilson and Tom Woolford are the outstanding artists selected to work with the 60 talented young people. Find out more about their work, their aims and their approach to this commission at www.arenaproject.org. The site will also offer private access to the students and artists involved as a forum to share ideas, explore ways of working and publish their work in progress.

We are grateful to Jason Thompson of Sound Ideas for his imaginative and stylish design of both websites.

2003 highlights

Seven years on and our music programme for 2003 is shaping up to be our best year yet!

We are expanding the masterclass programme to include two week-long opportunities for intensive study and performance. In March and November, led by our Patron Sir Thomas Allen and Della Jones respectively, twelve outstanding young singers will be given the time to reflect, work and above all be inspired. They have been chosen after three days of auditions in London and Glasgow, when over 60 young singers were invited to come and perform for our panel. The standard was exceptional. We heard some outstanding singing and musicianship, which made the final selection hard. That said, we are confident that we have found some truly gifted young people.



Della Jones

For the first time the Foundation has invited two great artists from the classical acting tradition to join the masterclass team. Barbara Leigh Hunt and Richard Pascoe will be coming to work alongside Della Jones and Paul Farrington in November. This is in keeping with the Foundation's desire to bring artists from different disciplines together to explore what can be learned from each other. As always, there will be opportunities to see the results of this hard work in masterclass and in performance. Full details are printed in Diary Dates on this page.

Expanding our masterclass opportunities still further, the Foundation is developing a new programme of choral workshops, led by Paul Farrington, one of only two vocal consultants in the UK, and Simon Over. Working on agreed repertoire taken from the Music Theatre and the Classical traditions, it will offer coaching and technical support for up to 200 music students and their teachers in Cumbria during both Masterclass Weeks, culminating in a performance of the music studied.

We were extremely disappointed that through illness we had to cancel last year's concert with Katarina Karnéus and Rebecca Evans. We were determined however to find another date to bring these two international stars together to perform for the first time. Given their schedules for the next four years it looked grim at first but we've done it! They will perform in our North East debut concert at Newcastle's Assembly Rooms on July 17th. Another date for your diary!

The success of our first concert in London at St John's in Smith Square last September has led to calls for another. We are busy at the moment making the final arrangements and the date and venue will be announced later.

Tickets are on sale now for all events listed.

Diary Dates 2003

Thursday February 6th arena Launch at BALTIC, The Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead

March 30th – April 6th The Seventh Annual Masterclass Week led by Sir Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington with pianists Simon Over and Julia Lynch with this year's specially selected young singers - Amy Black, Lucy Crowe, Sophie Graf, Bibi Heal, John MacKenzie and Thomas Walker

Choral Workshops, Monday March 31st 10a.m. – 2.30p.m. Open Afternoon of Masterclasses, Wednesday April 2nd 2p.m. – 5p.m.

Gala Concert, Saturday April 5th 7p.m. Penrith Methodist Church

May 24th – June 22nd The Samling Foundation Alumni Exhibition featuring work by abstract landscape artist, Catrin Webster.

Circle Gallery, Theatre by the Lake, Keswick

April/May/June arena - The Public Art Commissions Artists Runa Islam, Wolfgang Weileder, Carl von Weiler, Louise K. Wilson and Tom Woolford, selected to take part in this project will realise five individual commissions in 'arenas' of their choice across Tyne and Wear.

Sunday June 22nd The Samling Picnic – the annual party in the garden at Dilston House, Corbridge with non-stop live music and an art exhibition.

Thursday July 17th A Gala Evening with Katarina Karnéus and Rebecca Evans with pianist Michael Pollock 7p.m. Assembly Rooms, Newcastle upon Tyne

November 2nd – 9th Masterclass Week led by Della Jones, Paul Farrington, pianists Iain Burnside and Caroline Dowdle and actors Richard Pascoe and Barbara Leigh Hunt. Together they will be working with this year's specially selected young singers - Carolyn Dobbin, Amy Freston, Gudrun Olafsdottir, Kate Valentine, Kris Beligh.

Open Afternoon of Masterclasses, Wednesday 5th November 2p.m. – 5p.m.

Gala Concert, Saturday 8th November 7p.m.

Choral Workshops, Monday 10th November 10a.m. – 3p.m. Penrith Methodist Church

A Gala Evening

with

*Katarina Karnéus, Rebecca Evans
and pianist Michael Pollock*

*7 p.m. Thursday July 17th
Assembly Rooms, Newcastle upon Tyne*

Tickets £17.50, £15 concessions

Available from

The Samling Foundation Office

**Tickets including dinner with the Artists
after the performance in the Assembly
Rooms £75**

Available now Tel/fax 01434 602885

enquiries@samlingfoundation.org



The Samling Foundation

Community Centre, Gilesgate, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3NP Tel / Fax 01434 602885

e-mail enquiries@samlingfoundation.org website: www.samlingfoundation.org

Patron: Sir Thomas Allen CBE Artistic Director: Karon Wright Charity No: 1058654