

We've been listening...

Samling has developed a new Friends' scheme that not only gives added benefits but also helps to continue its work supporting musical excellence with young people of all ages.

"Over the past year our Friends have been saying to us how much they value Samling and the work we do with young people. Many of them have been part of the Samling 'family' for years and know how hard we struggle just to keep going, never losing sight of the standards across the board that have won us an international reputation," said chairman Adrian Gifford.

"Samling's board decided they wanted to harness that enormous good will to help in difficult economic times, but at the same time we wanted to make sure that our Friends receive generous benefits and this new scheme offers both," he said.

"For instance, the reception after our Masterclass concert last February was hailed a success and so we have decided to hold one after every Masterclass starting this February! This will give all our Friends the chance to join the artists for an informal glass of wine after the concerts."

"Together with a raft of benefits that include free newsletters, an invitation to the Private View of original artwork before our annual 'Party in the Garden' in June, a free ticket to an annual special Friends' event and acknowledgment in programmes makes Silver membership at £50 very attractive."

"In addition to the benefits that Silver membership offers, Gold membership, which will cost £150, will include free tickets to Samling's 'Party in the Garden', all three public Masterclasses and Samling's Showcase concert at Wigmore Hall in London."

"Platinum membership however, at £500, offers the best value of all with free access to all our events, including the London concert and dinner afterwards."

"Samling is run on a shoestring and receives no public subsidy. We are entirely dependent on the support of private individuals, trusts and foundations and our Friends' scheme. If Samling is to carry the past twelve years' achievements into the coming twelve and beyond we desperately need financial support now. Your support now will be repaid in every young person who finds a voice – on the international stage, in their school choir or simply within themselves," he said.

If you would like to support Samling's work by becoming a Friend please call 01434 602885.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009

SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK

*Sunday 22nd February –
Sunday 1st March*

Led by Yvonne Kenny, Sir Thomas Allen, Malcolm Martineau and Paul Farrington and eight specially selected young artists.

Verity Parker - Soprano
Maria Matyazova - Soprano
Claire Watkins - Soprano
Miranda Westcott - Mezzo
John-Colyn Gyeantey - Tenor
David Butt Philip - Baritone

Joseph Middleton - Pianist
James Baillieu - Pianist

Wednesday 25th February, 2-5pm
Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Masterclass, tickets £10

Saturday 28th February, 7pm
Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Concert, tickets: A/B: £20.50 C: £14

Tickets available from The Sage Gateshead:
Box Office: 0191 443 4661
Online: www.thesagegateshead.org

SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK

*Sunday 10th May –
Sunday 17th May*

Led by Nuccia Focile, Sir Thomas Allen, Malcolm Martineau and Paul Farrington with pianist Caroline Dowdle and six specially selected young singers.

Hannah Morrison - Soprano
Kirstin Sharpin - Soprano
Catherine Hopper - Mezzo
Nathan Vale - Tenor
Jean-Philippe Elleouet - Baritone
Gary Griffiths - Baritone

Wednesday 13th May, 2-5pm
Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Masterclass, tickets £10

Saturday 16th May, 7pm
Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Concert, tickets A/B: £20.50 C: £14

Tickets available from The Sage Gateshead:
Box Office: 0191 443 4661
Online: www.thesagegateshead.org

PARTY IN THE GARDEN

*Sunday 21st June, 12 noon onwards
Dilston House, Corbridge*

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

Tickets in advance: £40 for a family (2 adults and up to 4 children), £18 per adult, £5 per child

Tickets on the day: £45 per family (2 adults and up to 4 children), £20 per adult, £6 per child.

All tickets available only from Samling on 01434 602885.

SAMLING OUTREACH

*Tuesday 29th September –
Friday 2nd October*

Samling Scholars together with training orchestra Southbank Sinfonia will take part in presentations and workshops with students from schools in County Durham – the second year of a two-year project.

The week's work will culminate in a concert, conducted by Simon Over, at the Gala Theatre in Durham on 2nd October.

SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK

*Sunday 1st November –
Sunday 8th November*

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

Narine Ojakhyan - Soprano
Sung Eun Seo - Soprano
Anna Huntley - Mezzo
Amar Muchhala - Tenor
Carlos Noguiera - Tenor
Richard Latham - Baritone

Wednesday 4th November, 2-5pm
Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Masterclass, tickets £10

Saturday 7th November, 7pm
Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Concert, tickets A/B: £20.50 C: £14

Tickets available from The Sage Gateshead:
Box Office: 0191 443 4661
Online: www.thesagegateshead.org

SAMLING SHOWCASE

*Friday 11th December
7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, London*

This annual concert is a wonderful opportunity to showcase five of our Samling Scholars who will perform alongside Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau.

Tickets £25, £22, £18 and £12, available from Wigmore Hall Box Office: 020 7935 2141 or online: www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

There are a number of tickets, which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert in the Bechstein Room. These are priced £125 and are available only from Samling on 01434 602885.



Yvonne's Samling Debut

One of the most distinguished sopranos of her generation, the Australian opera star Yvonne Kenny, will be joining Sir Thomas Allen, Malcolm Martineau and Paul Farrington in her first masterclass for Samling - the first of three week-long courses scheduled for 2009.

With an international reputation as a dazzling interpreter of Handel's soprano roles and the French and Italian bel canto repertoire, Yvonne has also appeared regularly on the concert platform throughout Europe and North America, as well as in her native Australia. Her recording Simple Gifts was the first Australian-produced classical album to go gold, staying in the ARIA Classical Top 20 for over two years.

"Yvonne has an enormous amount of knowledge and experience, having sung all of Mozart's greatest soprano roles as well as Marzelline in Fidelio, Liu in Turandot and the title roles in operas by Donizetti, Monteverdi and Massenet, as well as making over sixty recordings. She has a great deal to offer the six young singers we have chosen for her to work with," said Karon Wright, artistic director.

Malcolm Martineau will also be kept busy, for as well as coaching the singers along with vocal consultant Paul Farrington, he will be keeping an eye on two up-and-coming young pianists - Samling Scholar Joseph Middleton, who made such an impression last June - and South African James Baillieu, who will be coming to Samling for the first time.

In the intimate setting of Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead on Wednesday 25th February you can see them all in a public masterclass working on interpretation, technique and stagecraft with sopranos Verity Parker, Maria Matyazova and Claire Watkins, mezzo-soprano Miranda Westcott, tenor John-Colyn Gyeantey, baritone David Butt Philip and pianists James Baillieu and Joseph Middleton.

This Masterclass Week reaches its climax on Saturday 28th February when our eight Samling Scholars will perform alongside Yvonne, Tom and Malcolm, also in Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead, in a programme that no doubt will show how Australian charm and humour can bring out the very best in everyone.

Samling Masterclass is supported by Bob and Jen Bowman

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CENTRE SPREAD Durham's 'singing' hinnies' **BACK PAGE** Friends' update; Dates for your diary



Yvonne Kenny

Samling Outreach

"Inspiring and uplifting" was the verdict on Samling's first Outreach project in County Durham with students, parents and teachers all saying how much they enjoyed the project and especially the two concerts given at the end of a busy week.

Four Samling Scholars – Teuta Koço, Louise Collett, Mark Chaundy and James Harrison – gave presentations of opera and lieder to pupils aged 5 – 18 years with pianist Christopher Glynn, in tandem with eight musicians of the Berkeley Ensemble, all former members of Southbank Sinfonia.

Building on Samling's project manager Katrina Conaty's hard work in the six schools in the weeks before the project, they worked alongside the students in workshops, gave presentations and rehearsed music specially arranged for the project by Len Young.

At the end of the week they all came together - professionals and students - to perform two concerts at Sherburn Village Primary School, conducted by Simon Over.

"We asked that all the students come to us as professionals, which means absolute focus, musical and personal discipline, being prepared to listen and take direction, and to do their very best all of the time. They more than rose to that challenge," said artistic director Karon Wright.

Samling is planning a second week of workshops and performances in September this year with the same six schools - Ludworth, Pittington, Sherburn Village and St. Hild's C of E Primary Schools, Belmont School Community and Arts College, and Durham Gilesgate Sports College and Sixth Form Centre.

"The concerts on Friday were wonderful and I felt a great sense of pride watching the children perform. The comments from parents have been heart-warming and they very much appreciate the opportunity and experiences offered to their children," said Teresa Leggett, headteacher of Sherburn Village Primary School.



Photos by Mark Pinder