

What the year holds for you with Samling

In Masterclass, Samling Scholar soprano Nicola Said with actor Alex Hassell, who joined Joan Rodgers, Roger Vignoles and Audrey Hyland at Sage Gateshead in November

Photograph © Mark Pinder

We start 2014 with a Masterclass double bill in February and March when we invite eighteen of the brightest and best to join us for two week-long residential masterclasses. Four public events – two masterclasses and two concerts at Sage Gateshead – will highlight each week, when audiences can catch up on the work developing in private in rural Cumbria.

Over 120 young classically trained singers and pianists were auditioned over five days in London and Glasgow last summer for these opportunities to study with and learn from some of the best in the business.

Samling's public performances always reflect the personalities we are working with and, as audiences found last year, can be full of surprises. So whether you are new to classical music or whether you have a life-long passion, as a practising musician or amateur, you can expect a lively mix of opera and song, old and new.

The great German baritone Olaf Bär, the head of music at Royal Opera House Covent Garden David Syrus, and soprano and teacher Patricia MacMahon join us in February. The week in March is being led by our Patron Sir Thomas

Allen and pianist Malcolm Martineau. In a first for Samling we also welcome Stephen King who will join them both to lead the week. As Professor of Voice and Chair of Vocal Studies at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Texas and Director of Vocal Instruction for the singers of the famed Houston Grand Opera Studio, Stephen is also a member of the Artist Faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and Ravinia Festival's Steans Music Institute.

After such a fantastic year, not only for our Scholars but for our Academy students too, we are looking forward to building on the work we have started in the North East with young singers who have grown up in the region or who have come here to study and who have the potential to forge professional careers in classical singing and accompaniment. During the year we have plans to run a series of workshops and will be auditioning again in May for the Academy weekends and public performances in the Autumn.

We are also looking forward to returning to Wigmore Hall for our annual Showcase which this year falls in November. And we end the year which will see another first for Samling when Scholar pianist Joseph Middleton joins us.

"Spread the word... if you are passionate about music, these performances are a must see."

'In our eighteenth year I am delighted that Joseph has accepted our invitation to be the first Scholar invited back to join the leadership team on our Masterclass Programme. There is a lovely feeling of a legacy permeating all our work now which sees our Scholars taking the lead in every aspect of our work. Whether it was in Samling Academy Opera's *Albert Herring* last summer or teaching the next generation through our Academy, it is immensely gratifying and an inspiration to us all,' said Samling director Karon Wright.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Inside: Samling Academy
Back: Events 2014 ... Book Now**

WHY SAMLING?

'Samling is powerful because it works – an experience based on inspiration and trust.' Sue Pierce, Lecturer in Education and Community Arts Leader

All photograph © Mark Pinder

'Samling has built a reputation on its masterclass programme designed to benefit promising young singers at the start of their careers. In extending the masterclass format into schools and colleges, it has created the Samling Academy here in the North East for those yet to put a foot on the profession's bottom rung.'

David Whetstone, the Journal

'I learned there is such a thing as 'singers' face' and it was really helpful to understand how to get rid of it and use the new ideas Alex has given us.'

Emily Bullock

'The movement classes have been a massive help and changed the way I think about a lot of my singing... a good and uplifting thing and I will be far more at ease with any movement I have to tackle in the future.'

Charlotte Heslop

'Getting to work with the incredibly inspiring and knowledgeable coaches whilst simultaneously being surrounded by peers with a similar passion for music has been one of the most musically positive experiences I've had the pleasure of experiencing in my life so far.'

Myrna Tennant

'The process of singing now feels deeper and more fulfilling thanks to a stronger connection to what I'm singing.'

Jordan Carlton

'This extraordinary opportunity confirmed my instinctive love of communication through song and gave me a deeper understanding of the emotional depth and sensitivity which provides an outstanding performance. I have been drawn even further into this art form which offers so much room and potential for magic.'

Harriet Beckham,

'The main message that I came away with is that it is perfectly okay to be yourself onstage and to be honest with a performance – a scary concept – but Samling Academy is such a nurturing environment and allows you to let go and experiment!'

Polly Leech

'An education in what lieder is about.'

Matthew Ryan, pianist

A sell-out concert at Sage Gateshead at the end of October marked the climax of Samling Academy 2013.

Under the inspired musical direction of Caroline Dowdle twenty four students, aged 14 -23, in the North East took part over six days and were coached, drilled and encouraged by a leadership team that included actor Alex Hassell. About to play Prince Hal in Henry IV parts I and II, and the title role in Henry V, for the Royal Shakespeare Company, Alex also joined us for our Masterclass week in November working with our Scholars.

The Academy leadership team of vocal teachers Patricia MacMahon, Samling Scholar Miranda Wright and the dance and movement coach Mandy Demetriou were supported by Scholar pianists Liz Rossiter, Jo Ramadan and Jean-Paul Pruna and Scholar baritone Jonathan Gunthorpe.

Samling Academy



SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK Sunday 2 – Sunday 9 February

Led by Olaf Bär, David Syrus and Patricia MacMahon

Lucy Hall	soprano
Sarah-Jane Lewis	soprano
Bethan Langford	mezzo-soprano
Nico Darmanin	tenor
Ross Ramgobin	baritone
Dominic Barberi	bass
Elizabeth Burgess	piano
Yshani Perinpanayagam	piano
Ian Tindale	piano



Samling Masterclass

Wednesday 5 February, 2-5pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

The great German baritone Olaf Bär is joined by Royal Opera House Covent Garden's Head of Music, David Syrus, and one of the finest singing teachers in the country, Patricia MacMahon. Together they will work their magic with nine emerging professional singers and pianists and share with audiences just how to turn a good classical performance into a great one.

Samling Concert

Saturday 8 February, 7pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

Samling's talent-spotting skill has meant that its audiences are often the first to see the operatic stars of the future. The climax of a week of rigorous training, this concert is a delightful way for both newcomers to classical music and enthusiasts to hear the very best young international artists, together with their mentors, in a programme of opera arias and songs.

Tickets

Masterclass £10 Concert £15

Available from Sage Gateshead

0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com

Ticket for both performances £22 call 0191 443 4661



SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK Sunday 23 – Sunday 30 March

Led by Sir Thomas Allen, Malcolm Martineau and Stephen King

Jessica Leary	soprano
Hannah Sandison	soprano
Chloë Schaaf	mezzo-soprano
Luke Williams	baritone
Arshak Kuzikyan	bass
James Platt	bass
John Reid	piano
Clara Murnig	piano
Yu Su	piano

Samling Masterclass

Wednesday 26 March, 2-5pm

Northern Rock Foundation Hall, Sage Gateshead

How does a good performance become great? World renowned North East baritone Sir Thomas Allen, acclaimed accompanist Malcolm Martineau and the American vocal guru Stephen King from Houston Grand Opera show you how, with eight emerging young singers and pianists live on stage.

Samling Concert

Saturday 29 March, 7pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

Finding the brightest and the best to participate in our internationally acclaimed Masterclass Programme, this evening showcases nine singers and pianists. Together they will perform popular opera arias and songs alongside their mentors, opera star Sir Thomas Allen and pianist Malcolm Martineau.

Tickets

Masterclass £10 Concert £15

Available from Sage Gateshead

0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com

Ticket for both performances £22 call 0191 443 4661



Rachel Kelly, now a young artist at Royal Opera House Covent Garden, in Masterclass with Olaf Bär in 2011.



SAMLING ACADEMY

10-12 and 24-26 October

Newcastle University and Sage Gateshead

In partnership with Newcastle University, Durham University and Sage Gateshead Weekend School, Samling Academy is setting new standards for young singers and pianists from or studying in the North East. We give talented young musicians the opportunity to work with our professional Masterclass leaders, teachers and experts, as well as our outstanding professional Scholars.

Samling Academy Concert

Sunday 26 October, 7.30pm

Northern Rock Foundation Hall, Sage Gateshead

Tickets £7

Available from Sage Gateshead

0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com



WIGMORE SHOWCASE

Wednesday 12 November, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau lead this Showcase of Samling Scholars as part of Wigmore Hall's prestigious song series.

Tickets £30, £25, £20 and £15

Available from Wigmore Hall Box Office

020 7935 2141 or www.wigmore-hall.org.uk



SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK Sunday 23 – Sunday 30 November

Six days of auditions are planned in June when we will choose eight young artists to benefit from a residential week of study with Samling.

Samling Masterclass

Wednesday 26 November, 2 – 5pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

Samling Concert

Saturday 29 November, 7pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

Tickets

Masterclass £10 Concert £15

Available from Sage Gateshead

0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com

Ticket for both performances £22 call 0191 443 4661



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