



Joan Rodgers and Vlad Iftinca in Masterclass 2011

Full Circle of Excellence

Seventeen years on, Samling is able to 'complete the circle' by bringing our Scholars back to take the lead. From this summer's celebrated Academy production of Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* to a performance of 'Messiah' in December, which will see Academy students join Scholars as soloists with Royal Northern Sinfonia, this Autumn brings you the very best of young and emerging talent.

Highlights include our second Academy concert in October which follows six days of workshops and masterclasses with our leadership team, led by music director Caroline Dowdle supported by our Scholars, including the baritone Jonathan Gunthorpe who will also be making a guest appearance in the concert.

Over two consecutive weekends 28 students aged 14-23, who are either from or studying in the North East, will be working on all aspects of performance, stagecraft and vocal technique towards a performance at Sage Gateshead showcasing their talents and what they have learned. The programme will include Chorales by Bach, duets by Brahms and Schumann and the very beautiful 'Easter Hymn' from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

This is followed by our annual Showcase at Wigmore Hall, which for the first time will take

place in November. The performance, featuring five of our Scholars, will be led by our Patron Sir Thomas Allen and pianist Malcolm Martineau. They will be joined by soprano Kate Valentine, fresh from her critically acclaimed portrayal of Mimi in English National Opera's production of *La bohème*, mezzo soprano Helen Sherman, tenor Luis Gomes, baritone Ben McAteer and pianist John Reid.

Our final masterclass week of the year takes place later in November when we welcome back soprano Joan Rodgers, pianist Roger Vignoles, Vlad Iftinca from the Metropolitan Opera New York and Audrey Hyland from the Royal Academy of Music in London. They will be working with eight outstanding young artists with two public events when you can catch up on their progress in a week that never fails to inspire and entertain.



Above: November's Samling Scholars

Congratulations to our Scholars

who have been in the news since our last newsletter, including Johnny Herford who won the song prize in the Kathleen Ferrier Competition. He was one of six Scholars who took part in the final, with Louise Alder winning second prize. Morgan Pierce won the final of the Royal Overseas League Annual Music Competition and three of the twenty singers selected for the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition were Samling Scholars – Katherine Broderick, Gary Griffiths and Ben Johnson. They were chosen from more than 400 opera and concert artists at the start of their careers, following auditions in nine locations across the world, with singers all eager to win a place in the world's greatest singing competition. In one of the most closely contested finals we have seen, Ben won the Audience Prize accompanied by fellow Scholar pianist James Baillieu.

Full details of all events can be found on page 4

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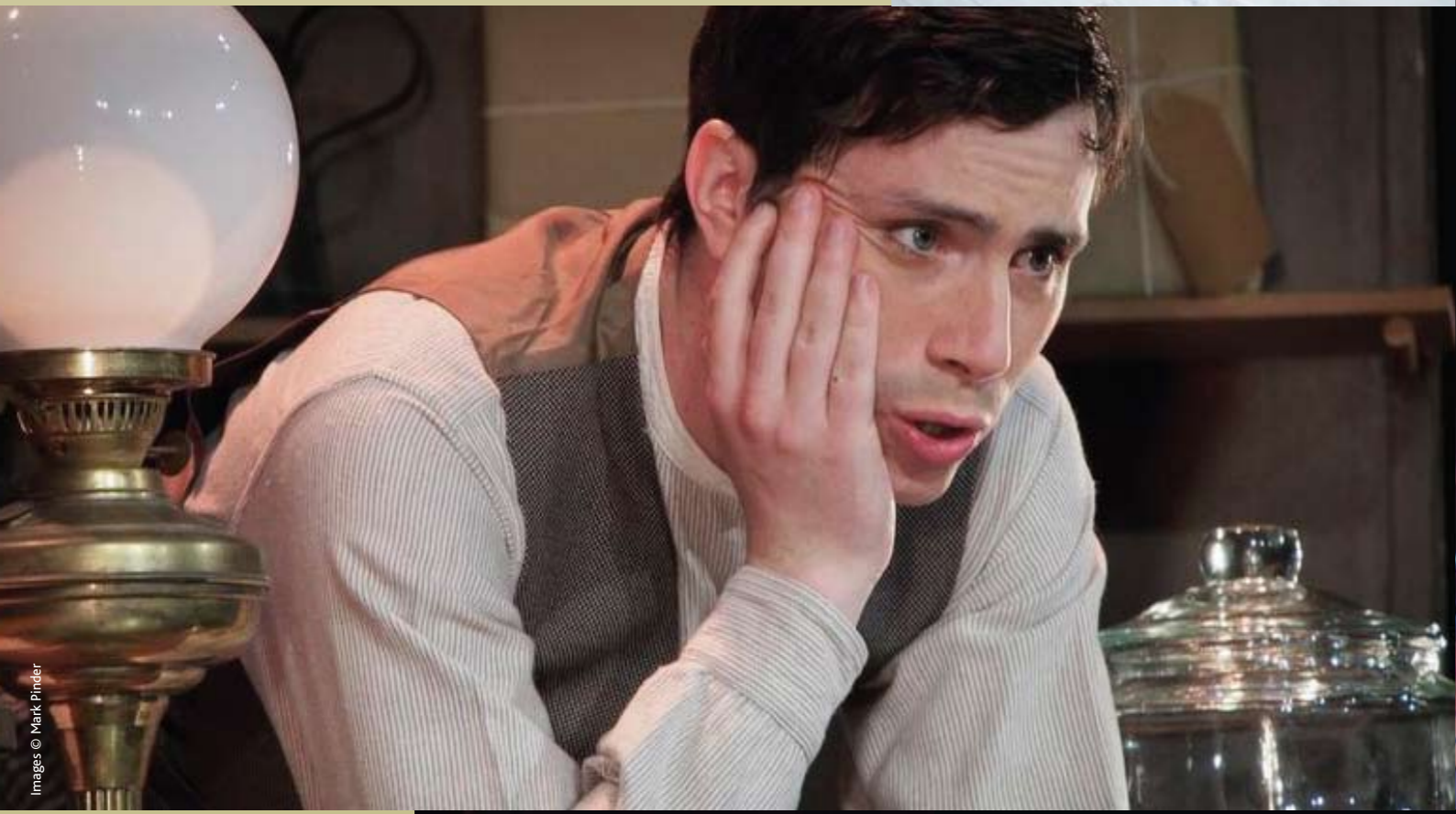
ALBERT HERRING

In Benjamin Britten's centenary year, Samling Academy Opera presented his comic masterpiece of English village life with performances in August in Saltburn by the Sea Community Theatre and Hall Two, Sage Gateshead. Samling Scholars led the production with Miranda Wright as director, James Baillieu as music director and Johnny Herford in the role of Sid performing alongside our Samling Academy cast.



'Being part of the first ever Samling Academy and playing Nancy in the Samling Academy production has been an inspiring and unforgettable experience. Singing alongside Johnny and receiving coaching from Miranda and James has given me an insight into how professional opera productions work, which is an invaluable opportunity for a budding singer and something I will no doubt draw upon and value for years to come.'

Alys Roberts



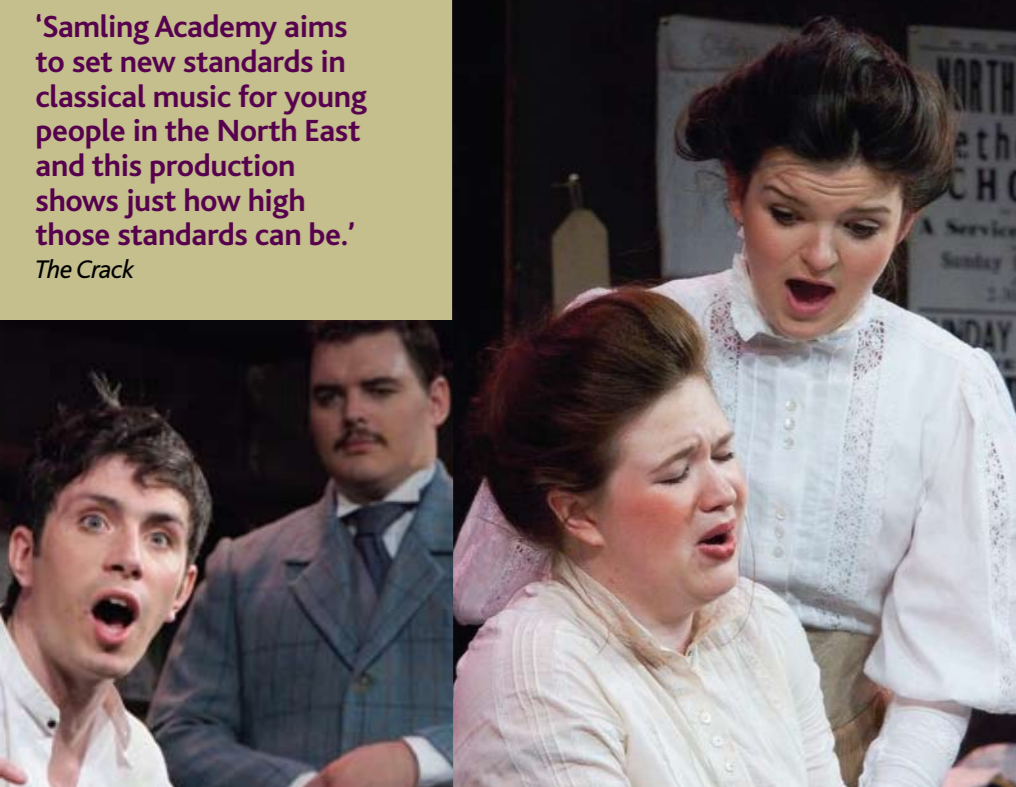
'Samling Academy aims to set new standards in classical music for young people in the North East and this production shows just how high those standards can be.'

The Crack

'Albert Herring: the debut of Samling Academy Opera... and a new voice in the North East' *BBC Radio 3*

'The virtuous circle is now complete because Samling can now call upon a growing pool of past Samling Scholars to share their expertise with members of Samling Academy.'

The Journal





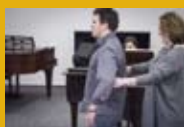
SAMLING ACADEMY

11 – 13 & 18 – 20 October

Newcastle University and Sage Gateshead

Samling, in partnership with Newcastle University, Durham University and Sage Gateshead Weekend School, aims to set new standards for young singers and pianists from or studying in the North East.

Together we have established Samling Academy to give talented young musicians the chance to work intensively with members of Samling's network of elite artists, teachers and experts, as well as our outstanding professional Scholars.



SAMLING ACADEMY CONCERT

Sunday 20 October, 7.30pm

Northern Rock Foundation Hall, Sage Gateshead

A showcase of Samling Academy's outstanding young singers and pianists as they perform alongside their mentors, including music director Caroline Dowdle and some of the finest young international artists of their generation – Samling Scholars baritone Jonathan Gunthorpe, pianists Elizabeth Rossiter, Jo Ramadan and Jean-Paul Pruna.

Tickets £7

Available from Sage Gateshead
0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com



SAMLING SHOWCASE

Tuesday 5 November, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau lead the annual Showcase of Samling Scholars – Kate Valentine soprano, Helen Sherman mezzo-soprano, Luis Gomes tenor, Ben McAteer baritone and John Reid piano. Part of Wigmore Hall's prestigious song series.

Tickets £30, £25, £20 and £15

Tickets available from Wigmore Hall Box Office
T: 020 7935 2141 or www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Dine with the artists after the concert...

There are a number of special tickets which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert in the Bechstein Room. These are priced £125 each. Available from Samling only on 01434 602885 or by email to enquiries@samling.org.uk



SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK

Sunday 17 – Sunday 24 November

International soprano Joan Rodgers and pianist Roger Vignoles have performed and recorded together to acclaim. Here, with Vlad Iftinca from The Metropolitan Opera, New York, and Audrey Hyland from the Royal Academy of Music, they lead a Samling Masterclass week for eight outstanding young musicians.

Katie Lowe	Soprano
Raphaella Papadakis	Soprano
Nicola Said	Soprano
Lynda-Jane Nelson	Mezzo-soprano
Andrew McTaggart	Baritone
Tristan Hambleton	Bass-baritone
Andrew Dunlop	Piano
Jonathan Ware	Piano



Samling Masterclass

Wednesday 20 November, 2-5pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

Samling Concert

Saturday 23 November, 7pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

Tickets

Available from Sage Gateshead
0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com
Masterclass £10 Concert £15
Ticket for both performances £22



HANDEL MESSIAH

Sunday 1 December, 7pm

Hall One, Sage Gateshead

In celebration of Northern Sinfonia Chorus' 40 year anniversary and part of Sage Gateshead's Christmas Concerts series.

Samling Scholars

Ruth Jenkins	Soprano
Helen Sherman	Mezzo-soprano
Joshua Owen Mills	Tenor
Ben McAteer	Baritone

Samling Academy

Rowan Pierce	Soprano
Polly Leech	Mezzo-soprano
Alex Banfield	Tenor
Nicholas Morton	Baritone

Royal Northern Sinfonia
Northern Sinfonia Chorus
Conductor Alan Fearon

Tickets £10-£33

The Sage Gateshead
0191 443 4661 or www.sagegateshead.com



INSPIRING
Musical Excellence
In Young People



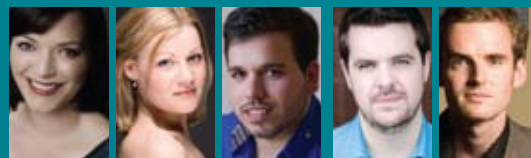
Samling Showcase

Wigmore Hall, London

Tuesday 5 November, 7.30pm

Sir Thomas Allen
Baritone
Malcolm Martineau
Piano

With Samling Scholars:
Kate Valentine
Soprano
Helen Sherman
Mezzo-soprano
Luis Gomes
Tenor
Ben McAteer
Baritone
John Reid
Piano



Programme includes: *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*, Aaron Copland; *Das iridische Leben* and *'Urlicht'*, Gustav Mahler; *Cinco canciones populares argentinas*, Ginastera; and *'Silent Noon'*, *'The Watermill'* & *'Linden Lea'*, Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £15
In person from Wigmore Hall or call 020 7935 2141
Online www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Samling is an international centre of excellence in the development of classical singers and pianists.