

Full Circle with Samling Academy



Miranda Wright with
Samling Academy
participants Clare Tunney
and Tom Rowarth

Photograph © Mark Pinder

Aiming to set a new standard in classical music, Samling launches its Academy in October.

Dedicated to young people living or studying in the North East of England, and working with project partners Newcastle and Durham Universities and The Sage Gateshead, Samling also plans to work at grassroots level to find young singers and pianists with potential in schools across the region.

Samling Academy will extend the reach of our professional Masterclass model to a new generation of participants. Initially conceived as a three-year project, our project partners share our desire to see the Academy take root and develop for many years to come.

In a first for Samling, a Scholar becomes a leader, as Miranda Wright, who took part in our Masterclass programme in 1999, joins our team to co-lead the course with Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington and music director Caroline Dowdle.

'I am very excited to be working with Samling on this new venture. The North East has a strong heritage of singing and we look forward to discovering and nurturing the young classical singers of the next generation from this area,' Miranda said.

Each year Academy participants will be selected by audition to take part in two intensive weekends of workshops in the Autumn term. These will provide one-to-one and ensemble coaching in singing and accompaniment, as well as performance opportunities. In addition Samling is working hard to raise funding to support work throughout the academic year.

The weekends will culminate in a public concert in Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead, through which participants will acquire performance skills, and test what they learn in the classes in a public forum alongside their expert mentors. This year they include Samling Scholars soprano Caroline MacPhie and pianists Edwige Herchenroder and James Baillieu.

'Singers have to wait for their voices to mature and it is common for the young artists we work

with through our Masterclass programme to have spent up to seven years studying before they can begin to pursue a career in classical singing,' said director Karon Wright.

'This is not something that is perhaps understood or appreciated by a wider public whose contact with or knowledge of classical music comes through the media and television shows. They can be misleading because they seem to say that anyone can sing like an opera singer, you only need to be 'discovered'. In reality it is about hard work over years, technically and artistically. It is about learning and studying languages which are key to classical performance, and a seriousness of purpose. There is no quick fix,' she said.

'We will know we have succeeded when members of our Academy come back to us to study in our professional Masterclass programme – a full circle nurturing international excellence in the North East'.

The Samling Academy 2012 Concert will take place on Sunday 28 October at 7.30pm in Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead.

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John Fisher

November Masterclass

Samling is delighted to welcome John Fisher to its leadership team in November to lead eight young artists through the rigours of a Masterclass week, alongside the great German baritone Olaf Bär, who joins us for a second time.

John, who is both Chair and jury member of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, has had a long and distinguished career since he joined Welsh National Opera in 1972 as music director of the company's Opera For All project.

He has worked extensively in Italy at both La Scala, Milan and La Fenice, Venice and was the first non-Italian to be appointed artistic director in any of the state-funded Italian opera houses. In 1994 he became director of opera and vocal productions

and executive producer at Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft in Hamburg before moving to New York to become director of music administration at the Metropolitan Opera.

Eight young artists have been chosen to benefit from the week – sopranos Joanna Foote and Susanna Hurrell, mezzo sopranos Rachel Kelly and Helen Sherman, tenor Luis Gomes, baritone Ben McAteer and pianists Matthew Fletcher and John Reid.

Audiences can catch them all at work in an insightful and entertaining afternoon of Masterclasses in Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead at 2pm Wednesday 14 November and again in Concert on Saturday 17 November, when Olaf Bär will introduce an evening showcasing what has been achieved during the week of study, reflection and hard work.



Olaf Bär

Photograph © Matthias Creutziger



Photograph © Mark Pinder

Music Graduate joins Samling team

With few opportunities for young people straight out of university to gain work experience in these tough economic times Samling has offered a placement to a newly qualified graduate of Music. Annelise Andersen hopes to have a career in arts management and joined the Samling team at the end of August.

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne and educated at Gosforth High School, Annelise read Music at Oxford University and steps into the shoes of Andrew Novell who, following his internship with Samling over this past year has now moved on, although he will be coming back to us in October to support the work of Samling Academy over the two project weekends. 'Having grown up in Newcastle and pursued all my earlier education, musical and otherwise, here I've always been eager to give something back. For me Samling, with its zeal for promoting musical excellence in the North East, seemed like the perfect place to do this,' Annelise said.

'The work I am doing with this internship is both stimulating and challenging and I feel very fortunate to have been given this opportunity which allows me to not only apply and develop my own skills and knowledge but contributes to the work of Samling, a cause which I support wholeheartedly. I am looking forward to the rest of my time here and all the valuable experience that will come with it'.

Schubert and a Visual Imagination

The Austrian artist Martha Griebler's drawings of Schubert illuminated a triptych of concerts presented by Samling at Kings Place as part of the London venue's annual Festival.

Nine Samling Scholars accompanied by pianist Joseph Middleton, who programmed the concerts, took part, with the drawings and text projected on stage. This juxtaposition was a first for Samling and as far as we know it was the first time that Martha Griebler's work has been shared with audiences in this way.

Richard Stokes, whose vast body of work on song, and Lieder in particular, is much acclaimed, praised Samling's innovative approach. 'The surtitles in both German and English and Martha Griebler's drawings might well in the future be regarded as a pioneering coup. How preferable to the traditional programme, into which audiences bury their heads and rustle as they turn a page. Beautifully done.'

In the run-up to the concerts soprano Jennifer France, mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany and baritone Philip Smith appeared on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune*, when together with Joseph they chatted with Sean Rafferty about the project and the special connection that Martha Griebler

had with Schubert, while performing some of the music from the concerts on the programme.

'To have the chance to programme such special music and drawings, and perform alongside such inspiring colleagues, was the biggest privilege and this will stay with me as one of the most artistically satisfying things I have done,' said Joseph.

'Samling is very grateful to Matthias Griebler in particular for working with us so closely over the past year to bring this project to fruition,' said director Karon Wright. 'Our intention was to bring new audiences to Lieder, and this is just the beginning.'



Above: Joseph Middleton, Jennifer France, Philip Smith and Anna Stéphany
Right: Joseph Middleton and Kitty Whately
Left: Joseph Middleton and Sarah-Jane Brandon



Photographs: Mark Pinder



**SAMLING ACADEMY****13 & 14, 27 & 28 October**

Samling Academy aims to set new standards in classical singing and piano accompaniment for young people who live or study in North East England. Following auditions held in April, they will benefit from working with the same artists and experts who form part of Samling's international Masterclass programme, nurturing outstanding young professional musicians.

Music Director Caroline Dowdle leads the programme supported by Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington and Miranda Wright, herself a Samling Scholar.

SAMLING ACADEMY CONCERT**Sunday 28 October 7.30pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead, Tickets £7

Samling, with Newcastle and Durham Universities and The Sage Gateshead Weekend School, showcases the first outstanding young singers and pianists in the North East to complete Samling Academy.

These young musicians will perform alongside two of the finest young international artists of their generation, Samling Scholars soprano Caroline MacPhie and pianist James Baillieu. Together they will complete a lively programme of songs, opera arias and ensembles including Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Brahms' *Liebeslieder*.

Tickets available now from The Sage Gateshead
Tel: 0191 443 4661 or in person
Online at www.thesagegateshead.org

**SAMLING MASTERCLASS****Sunday 11 – Sunday 18 November**

Led by Olaf Bär, John Fisher, Paul Farrington and Caroline Dowdle with specially selected young singers and pianists:

Joanna Foote	soprano
Susanna Hurrell	soprano
Rachel Kelly	mezzo-soprano
Helen Sherman	mezzo-soprano
Luis Gomes	tenor
Ben McAteer	baritone
Matthew Fletcher	piano
John Reid	piano

Samling Masterclass**Wednesday 14 November, 2-5pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead. Tickets £10

Samling Concert**Saturday 17 November, 7pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead

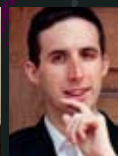
Tickets A/B: £20.50 C: £14

Tickets available now from The Sage Gateshead
Tel: 0191 443 4661 or in person
Online at www.thesagegateshead.org



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Director: Karon Wright
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Samling Showcase

Wigmore Hall, London**Thursday 6 December 2012, 7.30pm****Sir Thomas Allen****Baritone****Malcolm Martineau****Piano****and Samling Scholars:****Jennifer France****Soprano****Anna Patalong****Soprano****Martha Jones****Mezzo-soprano****Stuart Jackson****Tenor****Timothy End****Piano**

"Samling... and long may it continue. It's just exactly what young singers need... A terrific thing."

Sean Rafferty, BBC Radio 3 *In Tune*, December 2011

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.

Samling

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