



Photograph © Mark Pinder

Samling Academy 2014/15,  
soprano Charlotte La Thrope and  
baritone James Quitmann

## The best of the best

**2015 is promising to be the best year yet for Samling. With ambitious plans for developing our professional Artist Programme and Academy, our audiences can look forward to some highlights along the way when we open the doors on the work that is going on throughout the year.**

February sees us at Sage Gateshead for the first of our public events. In a change from tradition we are holding the masterclass and the concert on the same day. This new format will enable our growing audiences to see – in one afternoon – our eight Samling Artists being put through their paces by our team and also in concert. Led by Australian opera star Yvonne Kenny, internationally renowned opera director and vocal coach John Fisher, and acclaimed accompanist Christopher Glynn the afternoon begins at 1.30pm with a break of 45 minutes before the concert, which will finish at 6pm. 'We are trying this new format in response to requests from the many people who are not able to attend the public class on Wednesday

because of work commitments,' said artistic and executive director Karon Wright.

'We have also been reflecting on the development of our programmes and in particular our fast-growing Academy. As a result, we have been thinking about how best to describe what we do as an organisation to the world at large. As you are most likely to find 'scholars' in 'academies', we are changing the title of our alumni from 'Samling Scholar' to 'Samling Artist', she said.

Following the success of our first Academy Opera – Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* in 2013 – we are working hard on plans for a second production in the summer, giving our Academy students the opportunity to learn their craft in performance.

'Ravel's magical fantasy *L'enfant et les sortilèges*' provides us with the best possible vehicle for our students, not only to explore their singing and stagecraft but also to work with music director Jean-Paul Pruna in singing a role in another language,' said Karon.

Directed by Miranda Wright, this one-act opera will be produced in association with Saltburn Community Theatre and as part of the Academy partnership with Newcastle and Durham Universities and Sage Gateshead. October sees us extend the Academy once again over six days' intensive training, and auditions for places will take place in March, when through our 'Samling Futures Programme' we will be intent on finding young people across the North East with the potential to join us in concentrated workshops and performance with our world-class leaders.

In May we are taking Samling to Sheffield's Music in the Round Festival. Presenting a programme of music on the theme of 'Youth and Experience', three Samling Artists – soprano Louise Alder, tenor David Butt Philip and pianist James Baillieu – will be joined by our Patron Sir Thomas Allen, who will give a short masterclass before the concert on the repertoire to be performed.

November sees us back at Wigmore Hall for our annual Showcase, part of the venue's song series and at the end of the month we will welcome eight new Samling Artists to our professional programme.

**For full details of these events and more please see page 4 and our website [www.samling.org.uk](http://www.samling.org.uk), Facebook and Twitter.**

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## WHY SAMLING?

'I for one feel truly blessed to have been involved with Samling and I will always see it as one of the most powerful elements to my development as a singer and as a person.' Myrna Tennant, Samling Academy

## New faces at Samling

Thanks to a generous private donation to Samling by businessman Dr Tony Trapp, 'match funded' over three years by The Gillian Dickinson Trust, Samling has been able to employ two new members of staff.



Mary Emmett and Katy Cropper

Katy Cropper and Mary Emmett joined Samling in the Autumn and will be working hard to develop our Samling Artist and Academy programmes in the months ahead.

'This addition of two experienced young people could not have happened at a better time for the charity,' said chairman Adrian Gifford. 'With no regular or statutory funding and no endowment, we have enormous challenges ahead if we are to fulfil our plans. Mary and Katy will support our artistic director in all aspects of project development and planning, along with helping us secure the money to make it all happen.'

Katy, who until recently worked for Hazard Chase agency in Cambridge, graduated from Glasgow University in 2011 in music. Mary, who also studied music, at the University of York, has worked at both Garsington Opera and Leeds Piano Competition.

Mary was also one of the teenagers who took part in the education project that ran in tandem with Samling Opera's acclaimed production of *Così fan tutte* in 2005 with Northern Sinfonia directed by Sir Thomas Allen.

'Being involved with Samling was a life-changing experience for me. Having the chance to work with world-renowned artists not only started my personal passion for opera, but also gave me the confidence to believe that even someone like me, who'd grown up on a hill farm in the Yorkshire Dales, could go on to study music if I wanted to,' said Mary.

## Richard Pasco

I had the very good fortune to have an English teacher who decided to take a group of girls studying A Level English to Stratford to see a Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Richard II* – twice. For this was a famous production in which two actors played alternately the title role and that of Bolingbroke.

Richard Pasco was one of those actors, and the experience was revelatory. For the first time, through him, words and performance came together for me in a way that was visceral, profound and heartbreaking and I have never forgotten it.

To welcome Richard to Samling years later was one of my proudest moments. Over the years we have been privileged to bring to Samling some of the world's greatest artists. Richard, with his wife Barbara Leigh-Hunt, somehow wove his



humanity and artistry into the fabric of what we are today. In the words of James Harrison, one of the young artists who worked with them, 'the greatest music made that week was by them both'.

Karon Wright

## Arts Philanthropy Award

Lyn Shears, a former trustee of Samling and, through The Shears Foundation, one of the cornerstones of the charity, has been awarded the Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy.

Lyn was one of five recipients presented with the award by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at a ceremony at St James's Palace in November.

The award is in recognition and celebration of philanthropists who help the arts to thrive in communities across the UK. Lyn received the award jointly with her late husband, Trevor Shears OBE, for their work, which continues to be widespread, important and vital to arts activity in the North East and especially to Samling.



The Prince of Wales with Lyn Shears (centre) and Samling's Director Karon Wright

'It's vitally important to introduce more young people to the arts because they are the audiences of tomorrow,' said Lyn. 'My husband and I always felt that we got so much more from the giving than the recipients did... It's sad that Trevor can't be here but I know he would have been immensely proud.'

## Samling Friends – a unique opportunity

Become a Samling Friend and join our existing members to be entered into an incredible prize draw. The lucky winner will be invited to attend a private performance during our Masterclass week and join the artists for afternoon tea at Farlam Hall, Brampton, Cumbria on Wednesday 25th February.

A single annual membership fee is just £30. For further information, or to become a Samling Friend, please contact Katy Cropper by email [enquiries@samling.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@samling.org.uk) or phone 01434 602885.

Closing date for the draw is Saturday 31st January 2015.



# Samling Academy

Six days of workshops – singing, acting, movement, technical and language classes – with the best professionals from Samling’s team of experts came together in a sell-out concert at Sage Gateshead at the end of October.

Originally conceived as a three-year project, Samling Academy has taken root and is proving that Samling’s work with promising young singers and pianists in the North East is filling an important gap.

‘There is nothing like the Academy anywhere else in the North East of England’ said the independent evaluator of the project Jane Dancer. ‘There is a large geographical hole: Leeds, Manchester and Glasgow present opportunities to talented young people as there are either conservatoires or Opera Companies based there (or both). Samling is the only organisation to offer support here, and there is a vital and pressing need for their work to continue and grow to ensure that the young people of our region enjoy equality of opportunity and do not have to move to develop their skills.’

‘Costs are kept as low as possible by using the region’s existing infrastructure and partnering with organisations with similar aims... Samling adds the icing on the cake by providing highly skilled and professional, quality leaders – the like of which would not be available without their input. In this way the Academy strengthens and



Pianist James Baillieu, Emily Bullock (age 15) and actor Colin Hurley

complements the North East infrastructure in a way not possible for other organisations regionally,’ Jane Dancer said.

‘What I love about Samling Academy is its professionalism,’ said student Elen Roberts. ‘By giving us this unique opportunity to work with experts in their fields, we can learn the right etiquettes and professional attitude, which is so important in order to succeed in this world. I’ve had multiple ‘light-bulb moments’ where I had many realisations regarding my singing, in aspects of technique, performance and languages.’

**“...the Academy strengthens and complements the North East infrastructure in a way not possible for other organisations regionally”.**

Independent Evaluator





## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 22 February – Sunday 1 March

Led by Yvonne Kenny, John Fisher,  
Christopher Glynn and James Baillieu

Galina Averina	soprano
Marie Jaermann	soprano
Hermione Wu	soprano
Gyula Rab	tenor
Nick Pritchard	tenor
Benjamin Lewis	baritone
Lana Bode	piano
John Cuthbert	piano



## Samling Masterclass and Concert

Saturday 28 February

1.30 – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

Australian soprano Yvonne Kenny leads this rigorous week of coaching, tuition and performance alongside internationally renowned opera director and vocal coach John Fisher, and acclaimed accompanists Christopher Glynn and James Baillieu.

Following a week of intensive residential study, and in a first for Samling, the eight young professional singers and pianists will appear in an afternoon masterclass followed by a short concert showcasing just what it takes to become a top flight classical artist.

### Tickets

Masterclass and Concert £15  
Concessions £13 Students £10  
Available from Sage Gateshead  
0191 443 4661 or [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)



## SONGS OF YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE, MAY FESTIVAL OF CHAMBER MUSIC

Tuesday 12 May, 7.15pm

Crucible Studio Theatre, Sheffield

Sir Thomas Allen	baritone
Louise Alder	soprano
David Butt Philip	tenor
James Baillieu	piano

Samling has been invited to Music in the Round's Festival of Chamber Music. With a programme of Schubert songs from *Schwanengesang*, Britten Folk song arrangements and some songs from *Songs My Father Taught Me*, Sir Thomas Allen will share the platform with three Samling Artists who are already making their mark nationally and internationally.

**Open Rehearsal and Masterclass, 5.00 – 6.00pm**  
Crucible Studio Theatre, Sheffield

Opening the doors to the final hour of the rehearsal for this song recital, Sir Thomas Allen in masterclass prepares the Samling Artists for the concert, as well as rehearsing his own songs with James Baillieu. This promises to be an exceptional 'behind the scenes' experience.

### Tickets

£16.50 / Disabled & Unemployed £11  
Under 18s and Students £5  
Available from Sheffield Theatres' box office  
Please note, Sheffield Theatres charge a transaction fee of £1.50/£1 online for all bookings (excluding cash)  
0114 249 6000 or [www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk)



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Patron: Sir Thomas Allen CBE |  
Artistic and Executive Director: Karon Wright |  
Registered Charity No: 1112032 | Company No: 05576907



## SAMLING ACADEMY OPERA

*L'enfant et les sortilèges*

In association with Saltburn Community Theatre  
Directed by Samling Artists Miranda Wright and Jean-Paul Pruna, Samling Academy Opera returns to present Ravels' *L'enfant et les sortilèges*.

This 'lyric fantasy' – the child and the spells – is a cautionary tale when a naughty child's actions rebound as inanimate objects and animals learn to talk and seek their revenge.

**Tuesday 28 July, 7.30pm**  
Saltburn Community Theatre

**Tickets** £12/£10

Available from Saltburn Community Theatre  
01287 624997 or [www.saltburnarts.co.uk](http://www.saltburnarts.co.uk)

**Thursday 30 July, 7.30pm**

**Friday 31 July, 7.30pm**

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

**Tickets** £15 / Concessions £12

Available from Sage Gateshead  
0191 443 4661 or [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)



## SAMLING ACADEMY

9-11 and 23-25 October

Newcastle University and Sage Gateshead

In partnership with Newcastle University, Durham University and Sage Gateshead, Samling has set new standards for young singers in the North East giving them the chance to work intensively with Samling's world class team of artists, coaches and experts.

### Samling Academy Concert

Sunday 25 October, 7.30pm

**Tickets** £12

Available from Sage Gateshead  
0191 443 4661 or [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)



## WIGMORE SHOWCASE

Wednesday 4 November, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

**Tickets** £36, £30, £25, £20 and £15

Available from Wigmore Hall Box Office  
020 7935 2141

## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 22 – Sunday 29 November

### Samling Masterclass

Wednesday 25 November

2.00pm – 5.00pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

### Samling Concert

Saturday 28 November, 7.00pm

Hall Two, Sage Gateshead

### Tickets

Masterclass £12 Concert £15  
Available from Sage Gateshead  
0191 443 4661 or [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)  
Ticket for both performances £22 call 0191 443 4661



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