

# Dream Team

**It's the original 'dream team' again leading our last Masterclass of the year in October. We welcome back Patricia MacMahon who will be joining Sir Thomas Allen supported by vocal consultant Paul Farrington for a week of outstanding music making in private and in public at The Sage Gateshead.**

Supported by pianists Caroline Dowdle and Simon Over they will be working with the cream of young classical singers, whom Samling have auditioned over the past year in London and Glasgow.

The standard just gets better and better and this group of young singers is no exception. Sopranos Helen-Jane Howells and Nadine Livingston, mezzo Charlie Tetley, tenor Peter Gijsbertsen, baritone Lukas Kargl and bass-baritone Samuel Evans have been chosen because they are exceptional.

Over the week they are with us they will work incredibly hard – eating, living and breathing music alongside the course tutors. There is no escape but they all seem to thrive on it, not least at the hands of Mr Farrington, who never fails to find some gizmo to get across his point. So with pilates balls at the ready, tickets for the public Masterclass on Thursday 9th October in Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead are on sale now.

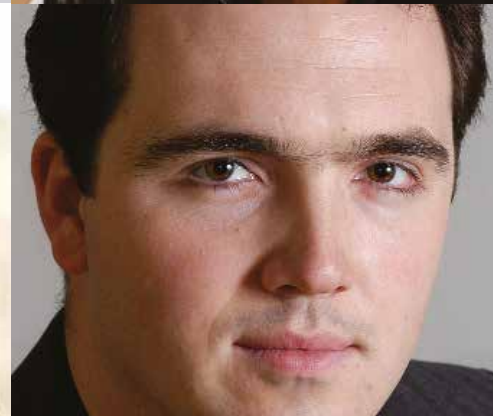
The concert on Sunday 12th October is the culmination of the week's efforts and so many Samling supporters comment on how much they enjoy coming back to Hall Two to witness the progress the young singers have made in the intervening days.

And of course the concert will also feature Patricia MacMahon and Sir Thomas Allen, the latter just back from Los Angeles having starred in the title role of *Gianni Schicchi*, directed by Woody Allen.

Tickets for these events are priced at £8.50 for the Masterclass and £26, £18, £12, £6 for the Concert and are available now from The Sage Gateshead box office: 0191 443 4661 or online: [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

There are a number of special tickets, which include dinner, wine and coffee with the artists in the Brasserie after the concert. These are priced at £75 and are available only from Samling on 01434 602885.

Samling Masterclass is supported by Bob and Jen Bowman



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# Samling Outreach



Samling's Katrina Conaty with school children in Durham (Photo by Mark Pinder)

**Supported by The Gillian Dickinson Trust, Samling has been busy making plans for a new education project, which kicks off in County Durham in November.**

The project, over two years, will involve pupils from Belmont School Community and Arts College, its feeder primary schools - Ludworth, Sherburn Village, Pitlington and St Hild's - and Gilesgate Sixth Form Centre and it will be the first time Samling has worked in the city and surrounding villages.

Samling Scholars including Louise Collett, Mark Chaundy and James Harrison have been chosen to

take part over four days alongside the Berkeley Ensemble, all members of Southbank Sinfonia's growing alumni. Together, under the music direction of Simon Over, they will take part in presentations, workshops and performances and work with the students aged 5 – 18 towards a professional concert at the end of the week's activities for parents and the wider community.

Samling's project manager Katrina Conaty will be going into schools from the start of the Autumn term to teach the songs and ensembles to the children and co-ordinate the choral elements. "After three successful years in Northumberland, we

are looking forward to adapting and developing this project for Durham students. It will be the first time we will have worked with schools in this area – exciting times!" said Katrina.

Next year we are planning to work with the same schools and bring Southbank Sinfonia to the region once again, with the final concert at Durham's Gala Theatre on Friday 2nd October 2009.

**For more details please contact Samling on 01434 602885**

## Samling scholar wins again



Ben Johnson in Samling Masterclass at The Sage Gateshead with Paul Farrington (right). (Photo by Mark Pinder)

**For the second year running a Samling Scholar has won Britain's most prestigious singing competition.**

The Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship Fund holds an Annual Competition before a public audience at the Wigmore Hall in London every April. Young professional singers compete for glittering cash prizes plus the chance to gain instant international recognition. This year it was tenor Ben Johnson who scooped first prize.

"It's easy in hindsight to know when it is the right time to enter a competition like the Ferrier. Having had my application accepted, my mind was full of doubts about whether I was ready. ('What should I sing?' being one of them.) Fortunately for me my time at Samling came a good two months before the competition.

Having a chance to work on potential repertoire with Della and Paul was a real luxury. Songs and arias were as much ruled out as put in, as the work on the course makes clear to you at what stage a piece is at in your voice.

I actually chose my Schubert song for the competition, 'Vor meine Wiege', because it popped up on my ipod as I walked one sunny February afternoon around the grounds at Farlam.

I came away from the week with my programme decided. I feel very fortunate to have won and many exciting things are coming up for me in the months ahead", he said.

**You can hear Ben sing at Samling's Showcase at Wigmore Hall in December – see back page for full details.**

# A future Samling Scholar?

"It is my favourite sort of singing. Before the project I hadn't been exposed to the world of opera. I am so glad the project came along"



Chris Mole (Photo by Mark Pinder)

**Samling is always keen to follow the progress and careers of singers who have taken part in its Masterclass programme and the same can be said about students from its education and outreach projects.**

So when Chris Mole, a student who took part in the *Don Giovanni* Education Project last year, was the overall winner in a talent competition at Newcastle City Hall, we thought a catch-up was in order!

Singing 'Time to Say Goodbye', a duet made famous by Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli, 15 year-old Chris and school friend Molly were one of 4,000 entrants into the 'TalentStar' competition. With heats in various locations, a semi-final and then a final, Chris and Molly were "gobsmacked" to be announced the overall winners.

"The song we had picked was an unusual one for TalentStar, with most entrants choosing pop songs.

When the announcement was made that we had won, we were so shocked! It was crazy!" said Chris.

It seems that the *Don Giovanni* project has influenced Chris' singing to the extent that operatic arias now feature regularly in his performances in and out of school.

"It is my favourite sort of singing. Before the project I hadn't been exposed to the world of opera - I am so glad the project came along. It's what I want to do now. I'm aiming to go to the Royal Scottish Academy when I have finished school".

With a youth opera at The Sage Gateshead coming up and an album to record as part of the prize for winning TalentStar, it appears Chris is already laying firm roots for a career in singing.

**Could this young tenor be a future Samling Scholar? Watch this space!**

## ROH Young Artist

Simona Mihai will be joining another Samling Scholar, Pumeza Matshikiza, on the Royal Opera House Covent Garden's Jette Parker Young Artists' Programme this Autumn.

The Romanian soprano, who performed in last year's Wigmore Showcase, will take her place on this prestigious two-year programme in September joining other Scholars who have previously made their mark there, including Sally Matthews, Jared Holt and Nikola Maticic.

# Showcase

Once again Samling has been invited by Wigmore Hall in London to be part of their prestigious 'Series' of concerts to 'showcase' the exceptional talents of the young singers we work with.

On Friday December 5th 2008 five Samling Scholars - soprano Kate Valentine, mezzo Madeleine Shaw, tenor Ben Johnson, baritone Ronan Collett and pianist Joseph Middleton - will be given the opportunity to perform in one of the world's most sought-after venues for soloists and chamber musicians.

Last year's Showcase at Wigmore was a sell-out and so we have pulled out all the stops this year to produce a lively programme which will take you on a musical journey around Europe in twenty songs with opera arias and extracts from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffman*, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* and Verdi's *La Traviata*.

Presented by our Patron Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau, this concert is a fantastic opportunity to show off Samling's unique format and style.

Tickets are available now from Wigmore Hall Box Office: 020 7935 2141 and online: [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)

There are a number of special tickets, which include dinner, wine and coffee with the artists in the Bechstein Room after the concert. These are priced at £120 and are available only from Samling on 01434 602885.



Wigmore Hall

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK

**Monday 6th –  
Monday 13th October**

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

**Thursday 9th  
October 2-5pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Samling Masterclass, tickets £8.50

**Sunday 12th  
October 7pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Samling Concert, tickets £26, £18,  
£12, £6

Tickets for both events are available from The Sage Gateshead:  
Box Office: 0191 443 4661  
Online: [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

There will be a number of special tickets, which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert. These are priced at £75 and will be available only from Samling on 01434 602885

### SAMLING OUTREACH

**Tuesday 11th November –  
Friday 14th November**

Four Samling Scholars and the Berkeley Ensemble will take part in presentations and workshops with students from schools in Durham.

A culmination of the week's work will be performed in a concert conducted by Simon Over, at Sherburn Village Primary School on 14th November.

### SAMLING SHOWCASE

**Friday 5th December,  
7.30pm  
Wigmore Hall, London**

Kate Valentine, Madeleine Shaw, Ben Johnson, Ronan Collett and pianist Joseph Middleton will be joining Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau on a musical journey around Europe in twenty songs with opera arias by Mozart, Offenbach, Donizetti, Rossini and Verdi.

Tickets available from Wigmore Hall Box Office: 020 7935 2141  
[www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)