

Outstanding line-up for Masterclass

Fresh from celebrating forty years with the Royal Opera, our Patron Sir Thomas Allen will be returning to his native North East to pass on a wealth of knowledge, insight and artistry to specially selected young artists taking part in our May Masterclass.

He will be joined by the eminent pianist Roger Vignoles with whom he shares a longstanding musical partnership and we also welcome back to Samling Scottish soprano Patricia MacMahon. As one of the finest singing teachers in the country, she has been involved with the Samling Masterclass programme since the very beginning and along with the pianist Christopher Glynn will complete the leadership team.

Together they will be working with the sopranos Katie Bird and Ruth Jenkins. As it happens it will be very much a homecoming for Ruth as she hails from the North East, having attended

Sacred Heart School in Newcastle before going on to Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music in London. Scottish mezzo-soprano Laura Margaret Smith, English tenor Stuart Jackson will join them, along with two bass-baritones Dutch/British Rick Zwart and Andri Björn Róbertsson, who comes from Iceland. Timothy End will complete the group as Scholar pianist.

Catch them all live 'at work' in a public Masterclass from 3-6pm, Wednesday 16 May, King's Hall, Newcastle University and then again in concert on Saturday 19 May at 7pm in Hall Two at The Sage Gateshead. As always the concert – the climax of the week – will provide a unique opportunity for the new Samling Scholars to perform alongside their mentors. Their outstanding work produced throughout the week will be displayed in an eclectic evening of opera and song.

"Enchanting and entrancing, engaging and engrossing, enlightening and enriching: I can't recommend Samling events highly enough, especially to my fellow singers here in the North-East."

Member of Northern Sinfonia Chorus
and Friend of Samling



Sir Thomas Allen celebrating his 40th anniversary at the Royal Opera House following a performance of *Così fan tutte* in January 2012.

Photograph ©ROH 2012 /
Sim Canetty-Clarke.

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“Samling... and long may it continue. It’s just exactly what young singers need...a terrific thing.”

Drawings are shown by courtesy of the estate of Martha Griebler, represented by Matthias Griebler

Doppelgänger



Schubert and a Visual Imagination

Samling has accepted an invitation from Kings Place in London to curate three concerts as part of their Festival in September. The concerts will explore the relationship between Schubert’s songs and the drawings of the acclaimed Austrian artist Martha Griebler, who died in 2006.

Programmed by Samling Scholar Joseph Middleton, the concerts will bring together for the first time the drawings with the text and music through projections of the images on stage.

Samling’s director Karon Wright travelled to Vienna last year to meet with Martha’s son Matthias Griebler, who has been working with her since then to bring about the project.

‘From the moment I saw the drawings I could see a way in which we could give those familiar with the work of Schubert, and those who are not, a deeper understanding of the composer’s inner life and songs illuminated by an artist who had the uncanny ability to make you think you are sitting in the same room with him.’

‘Joe has been busy putting the programmes together with the drawings, and nine outstanding Scholars from over the years will share them with a new audience for us at Kings Place,’ Karon said.

‘We want to take the audience on a journey exploring the themes of Schubert’s songs, his dreams and his ability to explore the frailties of mankind without being sentimental, a gift which he shared with Martha Griebler,’ Joseph said.

The celebrated accompanist and Schubert Scholar Graham Johnson, who knew her, said that Martha Griebler drew her inspiration from every aspect of Schubert’s life and biography. ‘Martha Griebler has the air of having known Schubert in a way that is not available to the rest of us...’ Her work ‘conjures the warmth and humanity that animated Schubert himself and made him an absolutely unique creator and friend.’

Full details of the three concerts are in diary dates on the back page and there’s more programme information on our website: www.samling.org.uk

Samling Academy

Auditions for outstanding young singers and pianists here in the North East are taking place at the end of April for a new project which kicks off in October.

Samling Academy is a new initiative, with project partners Newcastle University and The Sage Gateshead, aimed at musicians at an earlier stage of their development: the young professional singers and pianists of the next generation.

The project will bring together Samling’s Masterclass leaders and Scholars with undergraduates, graduates and students from The Sage Gateshead’s Weekend School.

Caroline Dowdle is perfectly placed to lead the project as Music Director. Involved as part of Samling’s regular Masterclass team for the past twelve years, she also is a regular staff member on the Jette Parker Young Artists’ Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and has led the Verbier Festival Vocal Academy in Switzerland for the last three years.

‘I don’t think I’ve voiced just how excited I am to be directing the Samling Academy project. It’s living in me all the time, and cooking,’ Caroline said.

For more details please see Events on page 4 and our website.

Wie schön - / How beautiful -



Making Friends

Samling is launching a new Friends' scheme at the beginning of April. With an annual single membership of £30 it is both simple and rewarding.

What's more, if you are a UK tax payer, by simply completing a Gift Aid declaration form, you can boost your support for our work by 25% and be eligible for tax benefits yourself.

Samling receives no public subsidies so we rely totally on the generosity of individuals, trusts and foundations and our own fundraising efforts.

As a charity, any additional donation you might feel able to give will also bring these tax benefits to Samling and the donor.

If our work is to continue to grow, we urgently need to increase the scale of donations so please give as generously as you possibly can. Your support really will make a difference.

'We were so heartened by the responses from our Friends during the consultation period,' said Claire Murphy, Samling's general manager. 'Couples said they would both join, others that they wanted to give more and will Gift Aid all of their support, significantly increasing what we receive as a charity. They have been unanimous in wanting to continue to support us and welcome the simplicity of the new scheme.'

Jack Jeffery, one of our long-term supporters, says 'Samling offers me an opportunity to support the development of outstanding young singers and pianists in a way that is unique in the UK. I love music, admire the team at Samling and am proud of the North East so I am delighted to do all I can to help the charity continue to develop.'

We feel sure that many of you will share Jack's reasons for giving us your support but we will also offer our Friends an excellent package of benefits, including:

- Samling Newsletters, annual diary dates and event fliers
- Booking assistance if desired where Samling has a ticket allocation
- An invitation to join Samling's Masterclass Leaders, Scholars and fellow Friends at an informal reception after Samling Concerts, including a complimentary glass of wine
- Acknowledgement in our programmes

Please become a Samling Friend by calling us on 01434 602885 or by sending us a cheque to Samling – contact details on page 4.

To all of you who have helped us devise the new scheme, a huge "Thank you".



PARTY IN THE GARDEN



The sun usually shines, the breezes are warm and the company is relaxed at Samling's annual Party in the Garden.

Twelve years on from the first party back in 2001, the event has become a popular annual fundraising fixture in Tynedale's summer calendar. Once again Roger and Eileen McKechnie are throwing open their lovely home and garden near Corbridge at Dilston House in Northumberland on Sunday 1st July to Samling. The day is given up to live music, delicious home-cooked food and an art exhibition throughout the house.

Featuring a group of artists, including some new to Samling, the show will include abstract, figurative and landscape paintings, monoprints, jewellery, ceramics and glass – all for sale. And the annual auction promises some exceptional prizes, which have been gifted to the

charity, including holidays, best seats at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, original art, and sporting events.

Garden Party favourites Sunshine Panners steel band and 5play Brass will be joined this year by a new folk ensemble 'Beauty and the Beardless' led by Bryony Bainbridge and featuring Kevin Lees, Dave Gray and Matty Jones. The foursome all met at Newcastle University and recently began performing together. Passionate about folk music from Scandinavia, Scotland and the North East, they have turned the tunes which they have collected into original arrangements with contemporary harmonies.



And whatever the weather we've got it covered – so rain or sunshine we're prepared with gazebos, marquee and umbrellas! All proceeds from the day go to support Samling's work inspiring musical excellence in young people.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Tickets for 'Party in the Garden' are available directly from Samling, with a limited number available on the day. Simply complete an invitation slip (enclosed with this newsletter) or contact us to find out more on 01434 602885 or at enquiries@samling.org.uk

**SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK****Sunday 13 – Sunday 20 May**

Led by Sir Thomas Allen, Roger Vignoles, Patricia MacMahon and Christopher Glynn with specially selected young singers and pianists:

Katie Bird	Soprano
Ruth Jenkins	Soprano
Laura Margaret Smith	Mezzo-soprano
Stuart Jackson	Tenor
Andri Björn Róbertsson	Bass-baritone
Rick Zwart	Bass-baritone
Timothy End	Piano

Samling Masterclass**Wednesday 16 May, 3-6pm**

King's Hall, Newcastle University, Queen Victoria Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. Tickets £10
 Tickets available from Samling on 01434 602885 or email enquiries@samling.org.uk
 Also from The Sage Gateshead Ticket Office 0191 443 4661 or www.thesagegateshead.org

Samling Concert**Saturday 19 May, 7pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
 Tickets A/B: £20.50 C: £14
 Available from The Sage Gateshead Ticket Office 0191 443 4661 or www.thesagegateshead.org

**SAMLING GARDEN PARTY****Sunday 1 July, from 12 noon**

Dilston House, near Corbridge
 Our annual summer celebration with fabulous food and drinks, live music, original art, exciting auction and more.

Tickets for less in advance: £40 per family (2 adults & up to 4 children), £18 per adult, £5 per child.
 Tickets on the day: £45 per family (2 adults & up to 4 children), £20 per adult, £6 per child.
 Tickets available from Samling on 01434 602885 or email enquiries@samling.org.uk.

**KINGS PLACE****Sunday 16 September**

Kings Place, London, 2.45pm, 4pm and 6pm

Three concerts will explore the relationship between Schubert's songs and the drawings of the acclaimed Austrian artist Martha Griebler. 'Martha Griebler has the air of having known Schubert in a way that is not available to the rest of us,' wrote the pianist Graham Johnson.

Curated by Samling and programmed by Samling Scholar Joseph Middleton, the concerts will bring together for the first time the drawings with the text and music. This conjunction of great song and art will give those familiar with the work of Schubert, and those who are not, a deeper understanding of the composer's inner life – the light and the dark – illuminated by a modern hand.

2.45pm 'Faith in spring'

Jennifer France	Soprano
Anna Stéphany	Mezzo-soprano
Philip Smith	Baritone
Joseph Middleton	Piano

4pm 'Moments of bliss illuminate the dark'

Sarah-Jane Brandon	Soprano
Kitty Whately	Mezzo-soprano
Njabulo Madlala	Baritone
Joseph Middleton	Piano

6pm 'I am not of this world'

Geraldine McGreevy	Soprano
Clara Mouriz	Mezzo-soprano
Benedict Nelson	Baritone
Joseph Middleton	Piano

Tickets will be available from Kings Place box office on 020 7520 1490 or www.kingsplace.co.uk

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

Samling, working with Newcastle University and The Sage Gateshead Weekend School, is initiating a project where 40 young vocal students and three pianists will gain the opportunity to take part in workshops and classes with Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington, Samling Scholar Miranda Wright and the project's Music Director Caroline Dowdle.

SAMLING ACADEMY CONCERT**Sunday 28 October**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead, Tickets £7
 Following an intensive course over two weekends, the 43 young musicians will all come together in a concert showcasing their work alongside a guest artist and Samling Scholar.
 Tickets will be available from The Sage Gateshead Ticket Office 0191 443 4661 or www.thesagegateshead.org

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

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

Susanna Hurrell	Soprano
Joanna Foote	Soprano
Marie Claire Breen	Soprano
Katie Bray	Mezzo-soprano
Luis Gomes	Tenor
Ashley Riches	Baritone

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 will be available from The Sage Gateshead Ticket Office 0191 443 4661 or www.thesagegateshead.org

**SAMLING SHOWCASE****Thursday 6 December, 7.30pm**

Wigmore Hall, London
 Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau lead this Showcase of Samling Scholars.
 Tickets £30, £25, £20 & £15, available from Wigmore Hall Box Office 020 7935 2141 or online www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Dine with the artists afterwards...

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 and are available from Samling on 01434 602885 or email enquiries@samling.org.uk.

Samling | Community Centre
 Gilesgate | Hexham
 Northumberland | NE46 3NP
 Tel / Fax: 01434 602885
 Email: enquiries@samling.org.uk
 Website: samling.org.uk
 Patron: Sir Thomas Allen CBE
 Director: Karon Wright
 Registered Charity No: 1112032
 Company No: 05576907



