

The Samling Foundation
NURTURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISTS

NEWS

SPRING 2004

ISSUE 10

Gala Concert

St John's, Smith Square
January 29th 2004, 7.30pm

Sir Thomas Allen

with pianists

Caroline Dowdle and Simon Over
and Samling Scholars
Amy Black, Sophie Graf, Jared Holt
and Thomas Walker.

Tickets: £25, £18, £10 (restricted view)
Box Office: 020 7222 1061

There are still a few tickets remaining,
including dinner with the artists, after the
performance in The Footstool Restaurant
priced £120.

Telephone 01434 602885
for more details.

London Concert heralds a New Year



Sir Thomas Allen

We kick off 2004 in style with our patron Sir Thomas Allen and Samling alumni returning to the beautiful St John's, Smith Square on Thursday January 29th at 7.30pm for our second London concert, which this year is being sponsored by Bradford & Bingley.

Laying the foundations for what promises to be an exciting year ahead, Sir Thomas appears fresh from his success at the Royal Opera House in Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, in which he starred alongside Felicity Palmer, who has also led masterclasses for the Samling.

He will be joined on stage at St John's by four of Europe's brightest emerging artists – Amy Black, Sophie Graf, Jared Holt and Thomas Walker – along with pianists Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle.

These concerts are a fantastic opportunity to show off the Samling's unique format and style in the capital. The evening's programme contains a blend of some of the best compositions in opera and song and will be sung with all the usual passion and panache we've come to expect from a Samling Foundation concert.

The four young singers chosen for the concert have all been through one of our courses and are now becoming established on the international opera stage. The repertoire and standard of performance all reflects the work we encompass in our masterclasses and is certainly something to shout about.

Let's not forget that this is a fund-raising evening and its success will underpin financially our courses for the coming year. So we need your support!

Photography: Mark Pinder

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will take to the stage together accompanied by pianist Simon Over for a duet recital at the Mansion House, Jesmond in Newcastle on Sunday 28th March 2004 at 7pm.

Winner of the "Lieder Prize" in the 1997 Cardiff Singer of the World competition, baritone Christopher is renowned at concert halls and opera houses around the world. He also has various recordings under his belt including Schumann, Schubert, Beethoven and Debussy.

Mezzo-soprano Leigh Woolf, a Samling scholar, is also making a name for herself in the opera world and has sung much of the major repertoire, ranging from Purcell to Tippett. She recently appeared at the Wigmore Hall in Brahms' Liebeslieder.

"It promises to be an evening of true Samling magic – a chance to see world class opera stars in a unique setting. The Mansion House in Jesmond is a small but intimate venue and provides us with the perfect backdrop.

"Christopher and Leigh are very supportive of the work of the Samling Foundation and we're delighted that we are able to give them the opportunity to perform together - a rare treat," said Karon Wright, artistic director of the Samling Foundation.

There are only 90 tickets available for the concert, which will include dinner, wine and canapés. These are priced at £75 and are available from the Samling Foundation on 01434 602885

We pulled off a coup last year with Rebecca Evans and Katarina Karnéus performing at our first Newcastle concert and this year will be no exception.

Husband and wife team, Christopher Maltman and Leigh Woolf,

Samling Opera

2004 will be a year for consolidation and planning for the exciting developments in the pipeline. One of these is the Samling's first opera production, *Così fan tutte*, which is due to be staged at the Sage Gateshead in 2005.

It will be the Samling's and the Sage's first foray into staging a full opera. Casting has already begun with Samling scholars for the production, which will be directed by Sir Thomas Allen and conducted by Thomas Zehetmair.

This partnership with Sage Gateshead and the Northern Sinfonia is already proving a fruitful exchange. In December five Samling scholars – John MacKenzie, Lucy Crowe, Elizabeth Atherton, Leigh Woolf and Thomas Walker - performed in Bach's Magnificat at Newcastle City Hall and Middlesbrough Town Hall with the orchestra. Earlier this year another Samling Scholar, Henriikka Gröndahl, performed the Berio folk songs to much acclaim.

We'll keep you fully updated with developments in future newsletters.



Pictured is Karon Wright (right), artistic director of The Samling Foundation with Simon Clugston (left), performance programme co-director of the Northern Sinfonia with the five Samling scholars (left to right) – Leigh Woolf, Elizabeth Atherton, Thomas Walker, John MacKenzie and Lucy Crowe (centre).

Party in the Garden

It will soon be time to shake out the picnic rug in readiness for the Samling Foundation's annual Garden Party on Sunday June 20th 2004 at Dilston House, Corbridge.

Roger and Eileen McKechnie will again be opening up their garden for all the usual fun – music, auctions, art, activities for the kids, wine and food. Live music and the

art exhibition will once again focus on the best young talent in region.

The funds raised at this yearly event help sustain our work so please come along – it's a fantastic family day out!

Tickets will be available from the Samling Foundation on 01434 602885 in Spring.

New home for Masterclass



Photography: Mark Pinder

From left to right: Barbara Leigh Hunt, Richard Pasco, Isobel Buchanan and Paul Farrington (seated) pictured at the final masterclass at Bank House.

We've had four fantastic years of masterclasses at Bank House on Ullswater but sadly, due to the impending sale of Sharrow Bay Hotel who own the house, it is now time to move on and find a new home.

And find one we have! The beautiful Farlam Hall near Brampton will be our new venue for the next masterclass in April 2004. This lovely, peaceful Victorian country house is set in 12 acres of mature gardens and paddocks with an ornamental lake and stream.

Its location, near Carlisle, also means that we have decided to hold the masterclass concert and dinner in the city.

Sir Thomas Allen will lead the first masterclass in April supported by Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington and pianists Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle.

The open afternoon will be on Wednesday 21st April followed by the gala concert on Saturday 24th April. There will also be a choral day on Monday April 26th April.

We would like to extend our thanks and best wishes to all the staff at Bank House for the future.

"Ullswater has been a perfect haven for our masterclass programme over the past four years and we would like to thank Nigel Lightburn for his kindness and generosity. We thank him and all the staff for their support during this time," said Roger McKechnie, chairman of the Samling Foundation.

"Our new home, Farlam Hall, has an excellent reputation and will offer our leaders and scholars the peaceful and inspirational surroundings that have become synonymous with a Samling Foundation masterclass."

For details of performances see diary dates.

Southbank Sinfonia

An exciting new development for the Foundation in 2004 is a creative partnership with the Southbank Sinfonia.

Britain's newest orchestra, the Southbank Sinfonia, is one of the most exciting projects in music offering exceptional new graduates of music colleges an intensive one-year learning and performance experience.

At the helm is Samling stalwart Simon Over, who takes on the role of music director and principal conductor.

"The aims of the Southbank Sinfonia fit perfectly with the Samling Foundation's work with young singers and this partnership opens up all sorts of new and wonderful opportunities for us both," he said.

The Sinfonia and Foundation are planning to come together in 2004 to bring a series of workshops and performances to schools and audiences around the North East and Cumbria

Diary Dates 2004

Thursday January 29th Gala Concert with Sir Thomas Allen and Samling Scholars Amy Black, Sophie Graf, Jared Holt and Thomas Walker with pianists Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle at St John's, Smith Square, London 7.30pm.

Sunday March 28th Gala Concert with Christopher Maltman and Leigh Woolf and pianist Simon Over at the Mansion House, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne 7pm.

Sunday April 18th – Sunday 25th April Masterclass Week led by Sir Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington with pianists Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle and this year's specially selected young singers – Simona Mihai, Susan Atherton, Alexandra Rigazzi-Tarling, Jonas Duran, Ed Lyon and Byron Watson.

**Open afternoon, Wednesday 21st April, 2pm - 5pm
Gala concert, Saturday 24th April, 7pm
Choral Day, Monday 26th April, 10am - 2.30pm
St. Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle**

Sunday 20th June The Samling Picnic – The annual party in the garden at Dilston House, Corbridge, with non-stop live music and exhibition of art from some of the region's up and coming artists.

Wednesday 22nd September – Sunday 26th September Performance and Outreach programme with Southbank Sinfonia and Samling Scholar, Fiona Duncan.
Programme and details to be confirmed.

Sunday 31st October – Sunday 7th November Masterclass Week led by Sir Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon and Paul Farrington with pianists Simon Over and Malcolm Martineau and six outstanding young professional singers.

**Open afternoon, Wednesday 3rd November, 2pm – 5pm
Gala Concert, Saturday, 6th November 7pm
Choral Day, Monday 8th November, 10am – 2.30pm
Venue to be confirmed.**

with Samling Scholar, the soprano Fiona Duncan who studied in Samling masterclasses with Barbara Bonney on Ullswater.

Details of these performances are currently being finalised, so we will keep you posted - *watch this space!*



arena – *past and future*

December 4th saw the final showcase of the arena artists' work at BALTIC and at the Owen Luder car park in Gateshead.

This event heralded the completion of the artists' work although Tom Woolford's and Carl von Weiler's pieces will be in situ at least until the end of January 2004.

Wolfgang Weileder also looks set to take his *house-city* project to other major city centres. "Thanks to the support of the Samling Foundation, *house* is already becoming a national and international venue. It will be part of the Madrid Abierto 2004, a public art festival and in summer next year it will happen in the square next to the ICC in Birmingham, as a project curated by Ikon Gallery," said Wolfgang.

The experience of arena is also helping many of the post-16 art students who took part. "A lot of the students are having interviews for university and art college and their experiences and work they produced on arena have certainly given them something positive to talk about," said Jean Stokes, head of art at South Tyneside College.

This is all good news for the arena project, which set out to challenge the perceptions of public art and the way people think about where they live and work. "In the last ten years, the Northeast has become associated with groundbreaking art works that are specifically orientated to the local population," said Antony Gormley, mentor on the arena project.

"The success of arena is another sign of a vibrant and open-minded community integrating creative thinking into their shared world and being recognised and celebrated for doing so," he said.

arena is currently being evaluated and work is being compiled for the production of a book on the project. The Samling Foundation is now looking to the future and using the arena model and the experiences gained to push forward its next visual arts project – PAINT – in 2005.



Wolfgang Weileder's time-based sculpture *house-city*, which appeared and then disappeared next to Grey's Monument, Newcastle upon Tyne.



A still from Louise K Wilson's film 'Runway', which was filmed at Newcastle International Airport.



Carl von Weiler's installation 'Monument' at Newcastle Central Station's metro.

'Land' makes its mark



The final piece of artwork in the arena project made its mark when it appeared on the cliffs at Tynemouth.

Tom Woolford's long awaited 'Landmark' spells out the word LAND in four metre high illuminated letters and is situated on the concrete buttress on the cliffs below Tynemouth Priory.

The artwork has caused quite a stir with local residents and visitors to the area and has certainly got people talking. "I've spent six months in the region working with a whole host of local people putting this

piece together and it's been a fantastic experience. Whether they love or hate it – I'm delighted that people are taking an interest in the work," said Tom.

Landmark will be in situ until the end of January 2004 and can be seen from the North Pier daily until 4pm – weather permitting.



A still from Runa Islam's film 'Scale (1/16th inch = 1 foot)', which was filmed at the 'Get Carter' car park in Gateshead.

LAND – A LIMITED EDITION

100 framed and signed prints of Tom Woolford's 'Landmark' by arena photographer, Mark Pinder are available from the Samling Foundation at the special price of £75 each. Contact 01434 602 885 for more details or to reserve your print, surely set to become a collector's item in the years to come.

The Samling Foundation

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