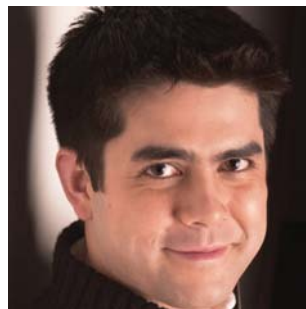


Return to Wigmore



The Samling Foundation's year ends with a return to one of the world's leading recital venues, Wigmore Hall, in London, on Friday December 14th to showcase its work in the capital. It is the first annual concert planned over the next three years as part of Wigmore's series.

The concert will feature four outstanding Samling Scholars – Simona Mihai, Wendy Dawn Thompson, Benedict Nelson and Mark Chaundy (pictured above from left to right) – alongside Sir Thomas Allen in a winter-themed evening of songs and opera ensembles accompanied by Caroline Dowdle, Simon Over and members of Southbank Sinfonia.

The evening, which will include works by Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Ravel and Puccini, will celebrate the charity's work with exceptional young international singers through its masterclass programme.

"These concerts are a fantastic opportunity to show off the Samling's unique format and style and we're delighted to be back at Wigmore Hall for our fifth London concert," said Sir Thomas Allen, Patron of The Samling Foundation.

"For me Wigmore Hall represents the pinnacle of Chamber Music and Song recital achievement and I consider it as far and away the best venue for us to demonstrate what it is we do at Samling and the level of music making we aim to maintain," added Sir Thomas Allen.

Tickets for this concert are now on sale at Wigmore Hall box office on 020 7935 2141 or online at www.wigmore-hall.org.uk. There are a number of tickets, which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert in the Bechstein Room. These are priced £120 and are available only from The Samling Foundation on 01434 602885.



Singing in the rain!

The rain certainly didn't dampen the spirits of those who attended this summer's Party in the Garden (as you can see from the picture above). Plenty of cover ensured that our guests were kept dry while enjoying a delicious barbecue lunch and listening to the cool rhythms of Quintessential, Peter Tickell and Steelquake. Chairman Roger McKechnie's role as auctioneer produced another fun-filled hour of bidding for some fantastic lots in our annual auction. The whole day raised just over £15,000 for The Samling Foundation and our thanks go to those who came along on the day to give us their support.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 18th – Sunday 25th November
Samling Masterclass Week

Led by Sir Thomas Allen, Isobel Buchanan and Paul Farrington with pianists Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle and the six specially selected singers.

Wednesday 21st November, 2-5pm

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Masterclass, tickets £7.50

Saturday 24th November, 7pm

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Masterclass Concert, tickets £26, £18, £12, £6
Available from The Sage Gateshead:

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

Online: 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 The Samling Foundation: 01434 602885.

Sponsored by UBS Wealth Management

and supported by The Shears Foundation

Friday 14th December, 7.30pm
Samling Foundation Showcase

Wigmore Hall, London
Patron Sir Thomas Allen and four Samling Scholars star in a captivating winter-themed evening of songs and opera ensembles.

Tickets: £28, £24, £18, £12

Wigmore Hall Box Office: 0207 935 2141 or
www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

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 £120 and are available only from The Samling Foundation: 01434 602885.

To come in 2008

Monday February 4th – Monday February 11th
Samling Masterclass Week

Led by Anne Murray
And six specially selected young singers.

Thursday 7th February, 2-5pm

Northern Rock Foundation Hall, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Masterclass

Sunday 10th February, 7pm

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead
Samling Masterclass Concert

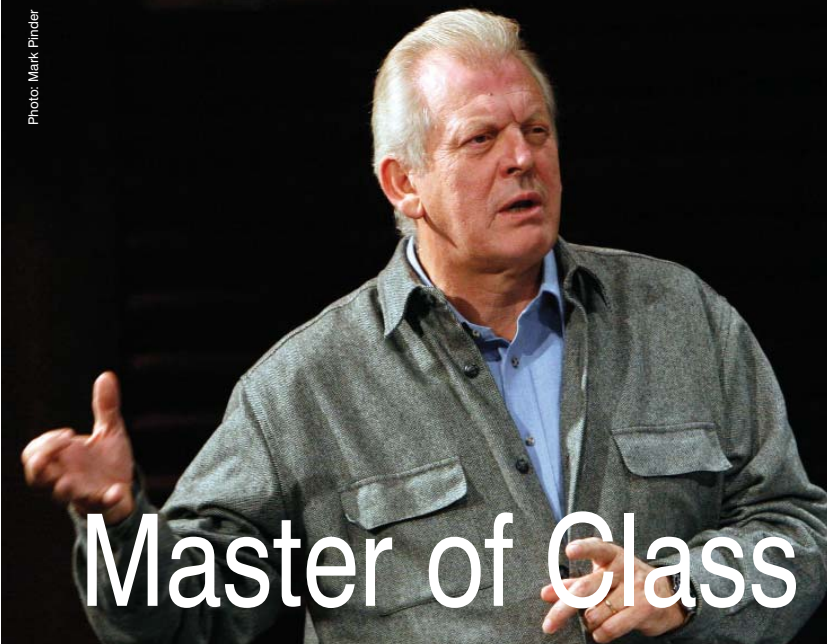
The Samling Foundation
NURTURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISTS

news

autumn 2007

issue 20

Photo: Mark Pinder



Master of Class

director of The Samling Foundation. "To see and hear such experienced practitioners working with these young professional singers is a unique opportunity. Anyone who takes up our invitation to 'sit-in' on our open afternoon will get a fascinating insight into the world of a professional opera singer - it will be a very special afternoon – that I can guarantee."

The Masterclass team and the six young international singers – Silvia Moi, Alinka Kozari, Louise Collett, Reuben Lai, Benedict Nelson and Felipe Oliveira - accompanied by Simon Over and Caroline Dowdle will celebrate the end of the masterclass week with a lively evening of opera and song back at The Sage Gateshead, hosted by Sir Thomas Allen and Isobel Buchanan.

Tickets for both events are available now from The Sage Gateshead box office on 0191 443 4661 or online at www.thesagegateshead.org

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

Both events are sponsored by UBS Wealth Management and supported by The Shears Foundation.

Samling Scholars Sweep the Board

Congratulations to Samling scholars Katherine Broderick and Benedict Nelson, who swept the board at this year's Kathleen Ferrier Awards - Britain's most prestigious singing awards for professional young singers.

Soprano Katherine Broderick, a Samling scholar from 2006, walked away with the top prize of £10,000 and baritone Benedict Nelson, who starred as Masetto in Samling Opera's *Don Giovanni*, took the second prize of £5,000.

Look out for Benedict Nelson at our forthcoming Masterclass – when he joins five other talented young singers at two events at The Sage Gateshead (details above).

Inside this issue:

Page 2 and 3

What a triumph! Samling Opera's production of *Don Giovanni* wowed the critics nationally and locally – we pick out some of the highlights of this acclaimed production and its education project.

Back Page

Return to Wigmore – Samling showcases its work in the capital with a return to one of the world's leading recital venues, Wigmore Hall.

Garden Party highlights – another success despite the weather!

Dates for your Diary

The Samling Foundation

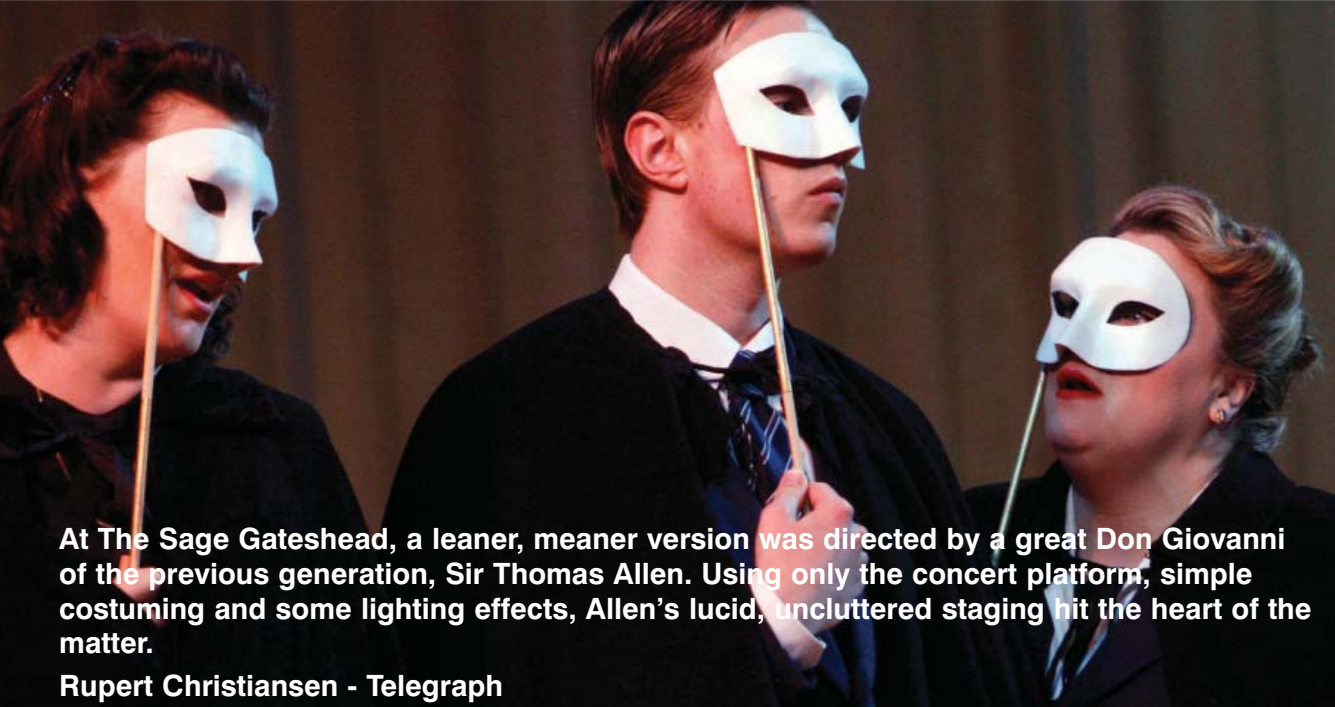
Community Centre, Gilesgate, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3NP Tel / Fax 01434 602885

e-mail: enquiries@samlingfoundation.org website: www.samlingfoundation.org

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

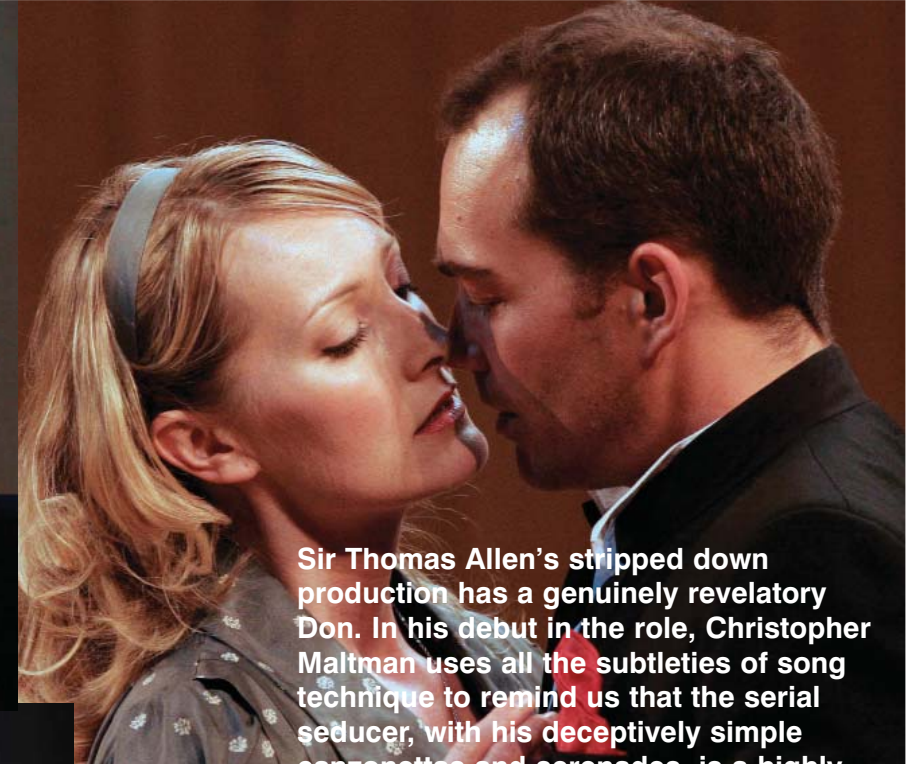
What a triumph!

Two years after *Così fan tutte*, Samling Opera's 'keenly-anticipated' second opera production - *Don Giovanni* - took to the stage at The Sage Gateshead for three shows and one special free schools' performance supported by The Gillian Dickinson Trust. Audiences loved it and so did the media - here's a taste of what the press had to say . . .



At The Sage Gateshead, a leaner, meaner version was directed by a great Don Giovanni of the previous generation, Sir Thomas Allen. Using only the concert platform, simple costuming and some lighting effects, Allen's lucid, uncluttered staging hit the heart of the matter.

Rupert Christiansen - Telegraph



Sir Thomas Allen's stripped down production has a genuinely revelatory Don. In his debut in the role, Christopher Maltman uses all the subtleties of song technique to remind us that the serial seducer, with his deceptively simple canzonettas and serenades, is a highly talented crooner.

Alfred Hickling - Guardian ****



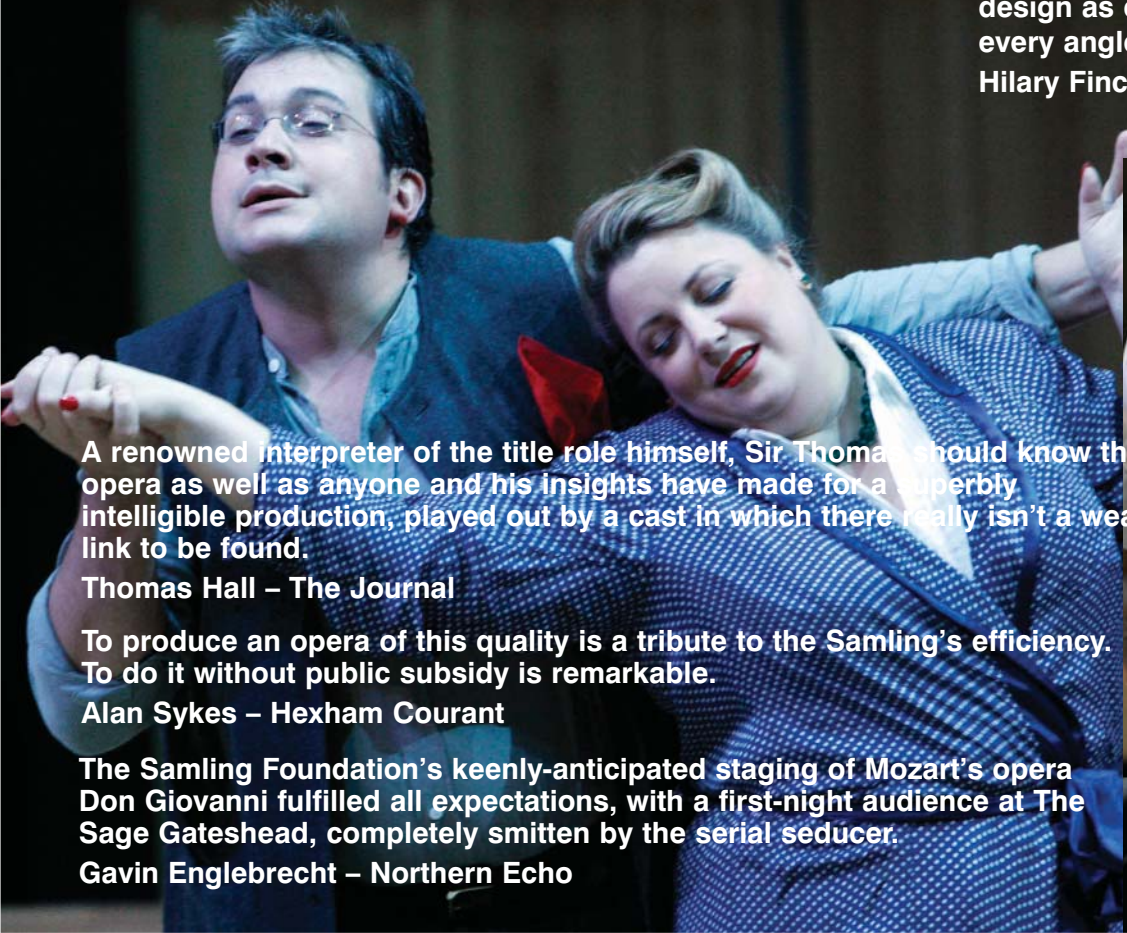
Whatever does take place in this gripping evening of theatre happens entirely within the music as it surges through the voices and shapes the body language of these young singers. It's a production on a shoestring, yet extravagant in its care: no sets, unfussy costumes and lighting design as concentrated as the action. Allen encourages his singers to use every stepped level, every angle, to suspend the audience's disbelief.

Hilary Finch - Times ****



Samling Opera offers big roles to singers at the start of their careers, infusing the traditional operatic repertoire with a boost of energy. It's a useful reminder that you don't need alienating, iconoclastic productions to add a sharp edge to old favourites - you can play them utterly straight, with a production pared down to its bare dramatic bones, and let the voices unwrap what it's all about.

Gail Nina Anderson - The British Theatre Guide



A renowned interpreter of the title role himself, Sir Thomas should know this opera as well as anyone and his insights have made for a superbly intelligible production, played out by a cast in which there really isn't a weak link to be found.

Thomas Hall - The Journal

To produce an opera of this quality is a tribute to the Samling's efficiency. To do it without public subsidy is remarkable.

Alan Sykes - Hexham Courant

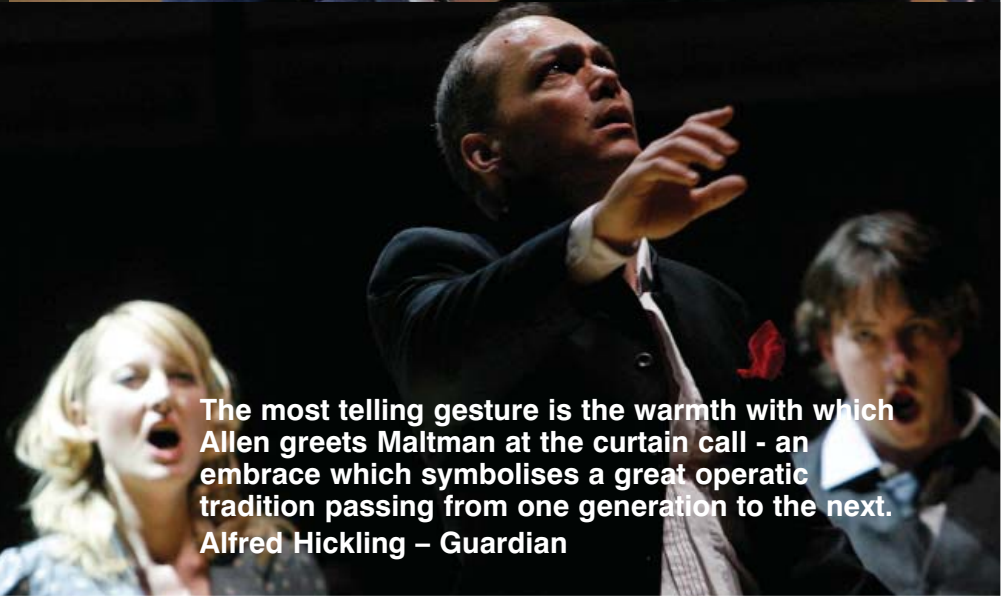
The Samling Foundation's keenly-anticipated staging of Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni* fulfilled all expectations, with a first-night audience at The Sage Gateshead, completely smitten by the serial seducer.

Gavin Englebrect - Northern Echo



This lean, commanding performance bodes well for the final instalment in this Da Ponte series.

Joe Kirkbride - Opera Magazine



The most telling gesture is the warmth with which Allen greets Maltman at the curtain call - an embrace which symbolises a great operatic tradition passing from one generation to the next.

Alfred Hickling - Guardian