

*The Samling Foundation*  
NURTURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTISTS

# NEWS

SPRING 2001

ISSUE 1

## 5th Great Year

Against the odds we are still here! Despite funding being an ever present challenge our Foundation continues to thrive. We celebrate our fifth anniversary in March when we host The Fifth Annual Masterclass Week, no less. Sir Tom and his team have gathered together quite a line-up.

From a shortlisted 48 young hopefuls from all over the world and after an exhausting series of auditions in London we found our six – the Samoan baritone Jonathan Lemalu and soprano Morag Atchison from New Zealand, tenor Christopher Steele from Australia and mezzo sopranos Leigh Woolf and Allison Cook and the soprano Elizabeth Atherton from the UK.

Our worldclass team, Sir Tom, Pat, Paul, Simon and Malcolm will be stretching our six Samling scholars to their limits and working them harder than ever during the week-long course with the hot-blooded *Don Giovanni*, a steamy favourite on the repertoire list. Following the success of the Barbara Bonney evening of masterclasses, we are throwing the doors open to

you and the general public to come and see work in progress on Thursday afternoon (15th March) and of course the climax of the week, the Gala concert, (17th March) is not to be missed! A limited number of tickets at £75.00 including reserved seats, drinks and canapés in the interval and supper with the artists at Sharow Bay Country House Hotel, Ullswater after the concert are available directly from The Samling Foundation on 01434 602885 or e-mail us on karon@wrightex.freescrve.co.uk.

**Tickets on sale now:**  
**Open afternoon, £7.50**  
**Gala Concert: reserved seating £75; unreserved seating: £15; £14 (Senior citizens); £12.50 (Students and children)** By Phone: 01434 602885 In Person: Bluebell Bookshop, Penrith

### From Scholar to Star

Samling scholar Sally Matthews, currently covering the role of Nanetta, at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden stood in at the last minute for the soprano who was indisposed. At just 23, she took centre stage on the first night of *Falstaff* to rapturous applause. Watch this space...



Photography: Don McPhee

## Barbara Bonney

One of the world's topflight artists, Barbara Bonney, renowned for the sensitivity of her singing and the sheer scale of her repertoire, came North to Penrith to join our Masterclass programme. To have an artist of her calibre, whose latest CD 'Diamonds in the Snow' was lauded by the world's critics and voted outstanding recently on the BBC, was a major coup. In October she worked her magic over three days on six young soloists, survivors from a shortlist of 56 after a rigorous selection process. The results attracted coverage nationally in the

broadsheets and from Natalie Wheen on Classic FM. Barbara subsequently appeared on BBC along with Sir Tom grooming more young artists (including some previous Samling scholars) and a young baritone who will be joining Sir Tom and the team in March.

It will be a year or two before Barbara is back with us, but we're working on a rather well-known Romanian soprano for next year. (You'll be bowled over when you find out who!)

# Oaks & Acorns

Five years ago a proposition was put to me, that I might like to become involved with a Masterclass project in the English Lake District. Five years and thirty plus students later the project has exceeded all my wildest dreams, and those of the others involved with me.

Demand for places grows each year and The Foundation enjoys a burgeoning reputation in the artistic community, for whom its work has been proven and demonstrated. Even after such a short time in operation, I have witnessed the most satisfying sight of young, relatively inexperienced singers finding new strengths during a week of intense musical activity. The sense of worth of experienced artists handing on their expertise to a new generation of highly talented and gifted young people can hardly be imagined.

There are a small number of organisations around the world offering Masterclasses and advanced training for young artists at an early stage in their careers, but The Samling Foundation is unique in the United Kingdom and I know of nothing quite like it in the world. But we do not, and can not rest on our laurels. It is to be hoped that with the development of new performance centres in the North East of England the Masterclass programme can be widened. The future is exciting and the training of constantly emerging young talent is vital in maintaining the standards of artistic achievement for which this country is now so justly renowned.

Sir Thomas Allen CBE, Patron



Sir Thomas Allen



Pianist Simon Over and Barbara Bonney in Masterclass with Soprano Fiona Duncan

## Funding a Fiddle

One of the stars at the Garden Party in June was the young violinist Peter Tickell. You may remember that not only did he play music from the classical repertoire brilliantly but he ended the afternoon on the main stage playing Northumbrian fiddle with technical dexterity and true feeling. At just 14 years old it is abundantly clear that this is a boy who has exceptional talent.

Peter has reached the stage when he needs an instrument befitting his capabilities and we have been doing our bit to help him raise the necessary funds. The violin that has been identified for him by his teachers costs £12,000 and through our help and donations from our Friends we are delighted to report that he has received £1,605 towards this target. A huge thanks to all who have given so generously.

# In the Deep End



Photography: Mark Pinder

Jocelyn and Tom Maxfield, of Seaham Hall, one of the project's main sponsors pictured with Artistic Director Karon Wright and Angela Hughes.

ideas over the next 12 months, resulting in a major exhibition at the University of Northumbria Gallery in the city centre.

As part of this residency the artists will be working with and teaching 12 of the best 'A'level Art students we could find from across the city, whose work will also be exhibited.

*Through this education project I wanted to offer something quite 'other' to the student's experience of working in school. Working out on location is quite demanding and very different to working indoors, it is less comfortable, not so easy.*

*The reason why I was attracted to Swan Hunters as the principal location is that I wanted to undertake a project of my own in an industrial setting which would enable me to continue exploring a series of themes. The subject matter at Swan Hunters allows us to ask questions about the place as a context. The relationship between ugliness and what we 'define as beauty', the nature of transformation, the contradictory elegance of things found within an industrial setting. Prunella Clough wrote: "Each painting is an exploration in unknown country, or as Manet said, 'it is like throwing oneself into the sea to learn to swim.' It is more challenging, and as a result it is therefore also possible to explore this visual world with the fresh eyes of youth.*

*Within this project the students have thrown themselves 'into the sea', the elemental and experiential has been explored. The students have had to use their senses - the yard has its own smells and sounds. It is cold, wet, windy, textured, real ... This can all be felt in the work, this is a very important aspect of practice, to feel, to sense, to see, to look, to lose control, to find understanding through this process.*

*All eleven students have not been simply entertained. They have worked hard and I have pushed them hard. The resulting canvases are strong, vital, energetic and individual. I am pleased with their progress and am excited about the beginnings of each of their individual creative journeys. It is quite clear that they have 'learned to swim'.*

**Angela Hughes, Foundation Artist in Residence**

Three young professional artists at the outset of their careers have been chosen to participate in the Foundation's first residency project in Newcastle upon Tyne. The landscape painter Angela Hughes, photographer Dan May and poet Matthew Clegg have been invited to explore shared themes and



Photography: Mark Pinder

Hard hat and hard work-on site at Swan Hunters

# NEWS

## Concert and Masterclass Weekends at Sharow Bay

With two concerts and masterclass weekends to look forward to this year, Sharow Bay Country House Hotel on Lake Ullswater have offered the Foundation's Friends an exclusive package for all those who would like to be resident. Along with the warmest of welcomes it includes the following:

### *Friday evening*

- Champagne reception with canapés
- Dinner with the artists (and including wine, coffee, cognac and liqueurs)

### *Saturday*

- Full English breakfast or equivalent
- Champagne reception with canapés

- Coach transfer to Penrith
  - VIP concert ticket and complimentary programme
  - Interval drinks with canapés
  - Post concert buffet supper with the artists (including wine, coffee, cognac and liqueurs)
- Sunday**
- Full English breakfast or equivalent

**Prices** – Premier Rooms £240 per person, per night (inclusive of V.A.T.)  
Standard Rooms £190 per person, per night (inclusive of V.A.T.)  
Please contact Nigel Lightburn on 017684 86301 for further details.

# Programme 2001

### *Thursday 15th March 2001 - Open Afternoon of Masterclasses*

Sir Thomas Allen, Patricia MacMahon, Paul Farrington and pianists Malcolm Martineau and Simon O'er put six outstanding young international singers through their paces. A fascinating part of Masterclass Week, it offers a chance for student groups and the general public to see work in progress!

### *Saturday 17th March 2001 - The Fifth Annual Masterclass Gala Concert*

The climax of Masterclass Week when all artists including Sir Thomas Allen perform highlights from the opera and song repertoire studied during the week.

### *Saturday 16th June 2001 - Thomas Allen and Patricia MacMahon*

Sir Thomas Allen and Patricia MacMahon with pianist Malcolm Martineau come together for a unique evening of music, a fund-raising gala concert.

### *Sunday 24th June 2001 - The Samling Picnic*

Our second party in the garden at Dilston House, Corbridge with live music, an art exhibition, barbecue lunch and afternoon tea – a fun day for all the family.

### *July and August 2001 - The Foundation Alumni Exhibition*

Our second Alumni show at The Theatre by the Lake, Keswick will feature the work of Ruth Stage, landscape painter - exact dates to be confirmed.

### *Friday 14th September - Friday 12th October 2001 - 'Divining Inscape'*

Three young professional artists at the outset of their careers have been chosen to participate in the Foundation's first residency project in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The landscape painter Angela Hughes, photographer Dan May and poet Matthew Clegg have been invited to explore shared themes and ideas over the next 12 months, resulting in a major exhibition at the University of Northumbria Gallery in the city centre. As part of this residency the artists will be working with and teaching 12 of the best 'A' Level Art students we could find, whose work will also be exhibited.

Private View Thursday 13th September.

### *Saturday 20th October 2001 - Nuccia Focile and Paul Charles Clarke*

In Verdi's Centenary year Nuccia and Paul will perform an evening of Italian songs, arias and duets with pianist Michael Pollock.

**Concerts and masterclasses are to be held at Penrith Methodist Church**

## Why not become a Member or a Friend?

*Our new scheme offers a wide range of benefits including:*

### *Member*

£20 pa - March to February  
Free newsletter  
10% discount on all tickets

### *Friend*

£250 pa per person - (March to February)  
Free newsletter  
Acknowledgement in all Foundation literature  
20% discount on all tickets

**Sponsorship packages available on request.**

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