



New Year, New Beginnings

Samling Artists take their final bows at Wigmore Hall, November 2017
Photo: Roger Way

We start 2018 by welcoming actor Alex Jennings to the Samling leadership team. 'One of Britain's most revered actors' (*The Guardian*), he will join mezzo-soprano Ann Murray and Royal Opera House coach Caroline Dowdle in February to lead eight new Samling Artists through a week of workshops, coaching and performance.

'As the only performer to have won Olivier awards in the drama, musical and comedy categories, Alex will bring a wealth of experience and understanding to Samling,' said artistic and executive director Karon Wright.

A public masterclass on **Saturday 24 February** will give audiences an insight into the work that goes on all week in private and will be followed by a short concert showcasing what our eight new Samling Artists have learned during their week with us.

Welcome to Doreen Middlemast

We are delighted to announce that Doreen Middlemast is taking on the role of Head of Samling Friends! One of Samling's most loyal supporters, we look forward to working closely with Doreen to strengthen and grow our Friends programme. 'I have been attending Samling events for nearly 15 years and have been thrilled by what I've witnessed', said Doreen. 'Not only hearing the glorious voices in concert performances, but learning so much about

Spring sees the start of annual auditions for both our Samling Academy and Samling Artist Programme. This year, for the first time, aspiring Samling Artists will be asked to submit a video application before being invited to auditions in Glasgow and London. Details of how to apply for both programmes can be found on our website or by contacting us at enquiries@samling.org.uk

Summer sees the return of Samling Academy Opera with a double-bill of Blow's *Venus and Adonis* and Purcell's *Come, ye Sons of Art*. We are delighted to announce that one of the country's leading Baroque ensembles – the Dunedin Consort with music director John Butt – will be collaborating with us on this fantastic opportunity for our Academy Singers to explore these great works with some of the best in the business.

Fully costumed and staged, and with performances scheduled at The Witham in Barnard Castle and

singing technique, process, and repertoire from attending the masterclasses has been positively inspiring and has given me a much deeper appreciation and admiration for the power of vocal performance. Being a member of Samling's Friends programme has given me invaluable and exclusive opportunities to get to know countless young professional singers, which makes it all the more thrilling to chart their progress in the operatic and concert world. I am delighted to have been asked to become Head of Friends as it allows me to give something back after all the joy Samling has given me.'

Sage Gateshead, Samling Academy Opera will be directed by Samling Artist Miranda Wright and choreographed by Mandy Demetriou.

Sir John Tomlinson heads up the leadership team for our Samling Artist Programme week in November for the first time. 'With over 3000 performances and getting on for 200 roles under his belt in a career spanning fifty years, we are looking forward to welcoming one of opera's greats,' said Karon.

Sir John will be joined by teacher Patricia MacMahon and pianist and Samling Artist Joseph Middleton for a week of music-making and discovery, which will culminate in a public masterclass and concert on **Saturday 1 December**.

Full details of this and more can be found on the back page of this newsletter or on our website. We look forward to seeing you in the weeks and months ahead.



Samling Artists Olivia Warburton, Jonathan Ware and Alastair Chilvers with Doreen Middlemast, December 2017

WHY SAMLING?

'If it wasn't for Samling, I would have missed the chance to learn from some of the greatest coaches and teachers working today; it has been of absolute importance to my career. Being part of the Samling family has always given me great pride, and the support it gives to young students in the UK and abroad is immeasurable.' – Bass-baritone Milan Siljanov, 2015 Samling Artist

Concert for HRH Duke of Gloucester

In October, members of Samling Academy were invited to perform a private concert in the presence of HRH The Duke of Gloucester at Matfen Hall. Other special guests included the Duchess of Northumberland, Sir Hugh and Lady Blackett, Lyn Shears and Samling Friends.



Samling Academy Singers Ana Fernández Guerra, Rachel Bird, Patrick Owston, Benjamin Laxton and Zoë Jackson performed a programme that included works by Mozart, Fauré, Brahms and Britten, and were accompanied by Samling Artist Ian Tindale. Photos: Mark Pinder



Duchess of Northumberland, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Samling Artistic & Executive Director Karon Wright and Lyn Shears of The Shears Foundation



Samling Academy

Six intensive days of training and a packed house for a concert at Sage Gateshead kick-started the Academy's year of activities in October. Based at Newcastle University, thirty Academy Singers, who were selected by audition earlier in the year, worked on their vocal technique, stagecraft, languages, movement and acting. They were led by a crack team of leaders and our very own Samling Artists. Photos: Mark Pinder



December Artist Programme

Our December Artist Programme saw eight of the most promising young artists work intensively for one week under the leadership of soprano Joan Rodgers CBE, pianist James Baillieu and actor James Garnon. The week culminated with an inspiring public masterclass and concert at Sage Gateshead. Photos: Mark Pinder



Samling Artists take top prizes at NEUE STIMMEN

Bulgarian mezzo-soprano and 2017 Samling Artist Svetlina Stoyanova took home first prize in October at the 2017 NEUE STIMMEN Singing Competition, one of the world's most prestigious international singing contests. The 26-year-old, who studies at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, received a €15,000 prize. German baritone and 2014 Samling Artist Johannes Kammler, currently a soloist in the ensemble at Bayerische Staatsoper, took home second prize. The NEUE STIMMEN Competition has launched the careers of several internationally acclaimed artists, including René Pape, Michael Volle and Nathalie Stutzmann.



Photos: Besim Mazhiqi

Samling on BBC In Tune

In the lead up to our Wigmore Hall showcase on 9 November, soprano Lauren Fagan, bass-baritone Milan Siljanov and pianist Ian Tindale appeared on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune*. Plenty of fun (and funny tweets) was had by all!

Milan Siljanov @MilanSiljanov · Nov 8
Ready to sing some songs @BBCInTune with @LaurenAshFagan and @IanTindale for our @SamlingArts showcase tomorrow @wigmore_hall!!!



BBC Radio 3 @BBCRadio3
Following
@MilanSiljanov, @LaurenAshFagan (and @IanTindale just out of shot!) are live on In Tune NOW ahead of their @SamlingArts Wigmore showcase tomorrow! Tune in to @BBCRadio3



Bianca Andrew joins Oper Frankfurt Opera Studio

New Zealand mezzo-soprano and 2016 Samling Artist Bianca Andrew has won a place in Oper Frankfurt's prestigious Opera Studio, where she will make her house and German debut as Countess Ceprano in *Rigoletto*. A graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Bianca recently performed at our annual Wigmore Hall showcase.





SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME
Sunday 18 – Sunday 25 February
 Led by Ann Murray DBE,
 Alex Jennings and Caroline Dowdle
 With Samling Artist Ian Tindale



Masterclass & Concert
Saturday 24 February 2018
1.30pm – 4.30pm and 5.15pm – 6.15pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead



Celebrated mezzo-soprano Ann Murray DBE, award-winning actor Alex Jennings (*The Crown*, *The Lady in the Van*) and Royal Opera House vocal coach Caroline Dowdle lead eight young artists in Samling's prestigious Artist Programme, culminating in a public masterclass and concert at Sage Gateshead.

Harriet Burns	soprano
Stephanie Stanway	soprano
Jade Moffat	mezzo-soprano
Tom Smith	tenor
Alexey Gusev	baritone
Julien Van Mellaerts	baritone
Marianna Abrahamyan	piano
Gamal Khamis	piano

Tickets Masterclass and Concert £16.50
 Available from Sage Gateshead
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



SAMLING ACADEMY
12–14 and 26–28 October

Starting the new academic year with six days of intensive training, 30 singers selected by audition will be given the opportunity to work with Samling's team of artists, coaches, and experts, including:

Caroline Dowdle	Music Director
Patricia MacMahon	Vocal Teacher
Miranda Wright	Samling Artist & Vocal Teacher
Mandy Demetriou	Choreographer

Samling Academy Concert
Sunday 28 October, 7.30pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Featuring some of the most talented young singers from across the North East, this year's Samling Academy perform a mix of opera and song in this special concert that showcases the singers' hard work over six days of workshops and masterclasses.

Tickets will be available from Sage Gateshead later in the year.
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



WIGMORE SHOWCASE
Wednesday 21 November, 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall, London

Samling returns to Wigmore Hall for its annual Showcase as part of its prestigious Song Series. Full programme details will be available in February and tickets go on sale later this year from Wigmore Hall Box Office or online at wigmore-hall.org.uk.



7.30pm Friday 20 July
The Witham, Barnard Castle
7.30pm Thursday 26 July
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead
7.30pm Friday 27 July
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Samling Academy Singers
 Dunedin Consort

Music Director John Butt conducts the Dunedin Consort – one of the UK's leading Baroque ensembles – in Samling Academy Opera's production of Blow's *Venus and Adonis* and Purcell's *Come, ye Sons of Art*. Directed by Samling Artist Miranda Wright and with choreography by Mandy Demetriou, don't miss the chance to witness this double-bill of Blow's masterpiece, considered the first English opera, and Purcell's much loved Baroque ode dedicated to Queen Mary.

Tickets will be available in the spring.



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME
Sunday 25 November –
Sunday 2 December

Led by Sir John Tomlinson, Patricia MacMahon and Joseph Middleton



Masterclass & Concert
Saturday 1 December 2018
1.30pm – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6.15pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead



World-renowned English bass Sir John Tomlinson, vocal teacher Patricia MacMahon and award-winning pianist and Samling Artist Joseph Middleton lead a masterclass with eight specially selected young artists from around the world. This afternoon offers audiences insight into the work that goes on in private during a Samling residential week. A short concert featuring both opera and song completes a lively afternoon of learning and music making.

Tickets will be available from Sage Gateshead later in the year.
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



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