



*Venus and Adonis.*  
Soprano Zoë Jackson and  
baritone Patrick Owston.  
Photo: Mark Pinder

## Coming this Autumn

**With a stellar line-up of artists – both new and familiar – we look forward to a busy season ahead and an exploration into the magic of song inspired by folklore.**

Following a rigorous audition process in the spring, thirty of the North East's most talented young singers – including fifteen new participants – will benefit from this year's Academy.

Music Director Caroline Dowdle leads a team of musical experts including one of the most in-demand singers today, Samling Artist mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphanie, whose recent appearance at Glyndebourne was described by *The Telegraph* as 'the evening's vocal highlight'. She will be joined by vocal coaches Patricia MacMahon and Miranda Wright as well as choreographer Mandy Demetriou, actor James Garnon and no fewer than seven outstanding Samling Artist pianists, who will bring a range of skills including language coaching in both French and German.

Our Samling Academy Singers will receive six days of intensive training from the leadership team where they will delve into vocal technique, acting, stagecraft, movement, language and diction.

Culminating in a concert on Sunday 28 October at Sage Gateshead they will perform solos, duets and ensembles from the operatic and song canons.

A few weeks later, we head to London for our annual Showcase at Wigmore Hall on Wednesday 21 November. Drawing on the themes of Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, the programme of songs and readings will explore ancient tales of childhood, spirits, soldiers and lovers and will be presented by five Samling Artists: soprano Elin Pritchard, mezzo-soprano Olivia Warburton, tenor Nicky Spence, baritone Julien Van Mellaerts and pianist Jâms Coleman, alongside pianist Christopher Glynn and actor Alex Jennings.

Shortly after our Wigmore Showcase, we welcome for the first time the legendary bass Sir John Tomlinson to lead our professional Artist Programme. He says he is looking forward to 'the adventure of meeting, hearing and working with young artists and being instrumental in their development.' The residential week culminates in what is sure to be a sparkling public masterclass and concert on Saturday 1 December at Sage Gateshead.

**For more details please see  
Diary Dates on Page 4.**

## Samling Alumni Success



### James Newby named BBC New Generation Artist

Samling Artist baritone James Newby has been selected by BBC Radio 3 to join its prestigious New Generation Artist scheme from 2018 to 2020. Alongside five other artists from around the globe, James will be given opportunities to make studio recordings, perform with the BBC orchestras and feature in Radio 3's Monday Lunchtime Concert series at Wigmore Hall, as well as at many of the UK's top festivals and venues.

**Pictured above: James Newby in Samling's public masterclass with baritone Roderick Williams, 2017.**  
Photo: Mark Pinder



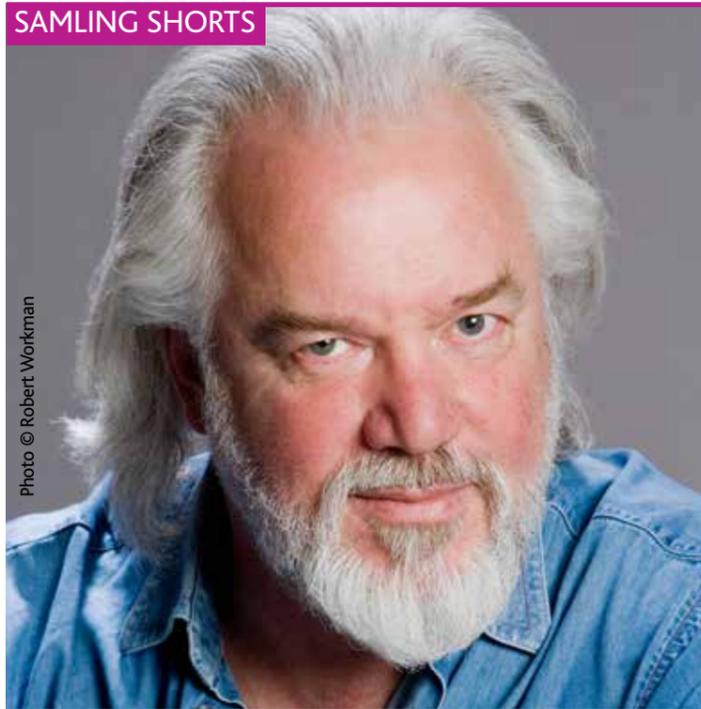
### Julien Van Mellaerts wows Montreal

Samling Artist baritone Julien Van Mellaerts impressed audiences both live and in webcasts broadcast around the world at the annual Concours musical international de Montréal vocal competition. After making it through the demanding preliminary and semi-final stages in the Art Song category in June, Julien took home two top prizes at the final: the Maureen Forrester Second Prize and the German Lied Award. Julien will appear at our annual Wigmore Hall Showcase on 21 November.

**Pictured above: Julien (left) with Clara Osowski (Third Prize) and John Brancy (First Prize)**  
Photo: Tam Lan Truong Photography

'Every time I work with Samling the team is top quality and there is always such a friendly and supportive environment. Samling really gets the best out of musicians.' – *Samling Artist countertenor Tim Morgan*

SAMLING SHORTS



# Sir John Tomlinson

With a career spanning nearly half a century, Sir John Tomlinson has become a household name on all the major opera stages and concert platforms of the world. Known for his commanding performances of roles including Wotan (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), King Marke (*Tristan und Isolde*), Duke Bluebeard (*Bluebeard's Castle*) and Moses (*Moses und Aron*), in recent years he has been expanding his already vast repertoire to include more Lieder. Sir John joins Samling in November this year to lead his first Samling Artist Programme.

What are you currently working on?

'Moses & Aron' by Arnold Schoenberg

Last music you listened to?

Recital of songs by composers all born in 1939

Last music you sang?

Excerpt from 'Der Rosenkavalier' (Richard Strauss)

Most underrated opera?

Oberlo - Verdi

Most overrated opera?

Turandot - Puccini

If you weren't a singer, what would you be?

Engineer

What do you like most about working with young singers?

By encouraging their strengths and working on their weaknesses, to help them on their way

What do you see as some of the biggest challenges facing young singers today?

The challenges remain as they always were: to be of very high quality in voice, language, acting, musicianship

What are the artistic challenges of moving between operatic and song repertoire?

A song should be just as alive, dramatic, intelligent, without overt physical movement.

What do you do on a day off?

Make things, read, walk & sing for an hour

Wagner, Shostakovich and Schoenberg walk into a bar. Which one do you have a beer with?

Definitely Wagner

What are you most looking forward to in leading Samling Artist Programme?

The unpredictability and adventure of meeting, hearing and working with young artists and being instrumental in their development.

# Samling Academy Triumphs

Samling Academy Opera transported summer audiences to 17th-century England in a double bill of Purcell's *Come, ye Sons of Art* and Blow's *Venus and Adonis*.

Countless hours over many months were dedicated to score study, diction, staging and choreography, including learning 17th-century dance steps and gesture. It all came together for our Academy Singers in three performances in July alongside the internationally renowned Dunedin Consort led by music director John Butt and joined by Samling Artist countertenor Tim Morgan in what was a resounding success for the young artists.

'Our Academy Singers were given the chance to work at a professional level with some of the world's best musicians, in a safe and nurturing environment,' said stage director Miranda Wright. 'Through singing, movement, costume and dramatic intent and narrative, we set out to create pictures to match the beauty of the music – a glimpse of both the bawdy playfulness and elegance of the Baroque court.'

Baritone Patrick Owston called the experience 'unforgettable', and as Adonis, his 'rich tones oozed authority' (*The Northern Echo*). 'Aside from the singing and acting involved', Patrick recounts, 'learning the customs of Baroque dance proved to be a challenging,

yet enjoyable task. I also got to perform my first ever stage death, which is an art form in its own right!'

Soprano Zoë Jackson, in the role of Venus, 'sang with power, passion and depth' (*The Northern Echo*) and particularly enjoyed working with John Butt and the Dunedin Consort. 'With John's guidance, I learned to trust that the Dunedin Consort would follow what we were doing, especially in the trickier sections. They're the absolute best in their field and it was an amazing experience to work with them,' she said.

Samling Academy perform in concert on 28 October at Sage Gateshead.



Photos from Samling Academy Opera's production of *Come, ye Sons of Art / Venus and Adonis*, July 2018 © Mark Pinder

# Welcome to Audrey Macnaughton

We're happy to share news on the latest addition to the Samling family! Audrey Macnaughton, who runs her own training and HR consultancy firm Macnaughton McGregor Ltd, has recently come on board as a Samling Trustee.

'The first time I was lucky enough to observe a Samling masterclass session, I was hooked', Audrey says. 'To watch the skill of the world-class leaders, the dedication of the young artists, and – working together – their utter immersion in the craft, is totally spellbinding. Who wouldn't want to be part of the Samling community and help with all it does? In a world which needs more inspiration and beauty, I am so privileged to play my part in this important organisation.'





## SAMLING ACADEMY

12 – 14 and 26 – 28 October

Starting the new academic year with six days of intensive training, thirty 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
Anna Stéphanie	Samling Artist/Mezzo-soprano
James Garnon	Actor
Mandy Demetriou	Choreographer

Samling Artist Pianists:

Marianna Abrahamyan	Jean-Paul Pruna
Jâms Coleman	Ian Tindale
Somi Kim	Jonathan Ware
Michael Pandya	

### 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** £14

Available from Sage Gateshead  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



## WIGMORE SHOWCASE

Long Time Ago

Wednesday 21 November, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Samling returns to Wigmore Hall for its annual showcase with Samling Artists from across the years exploring songs inspired by folklore. Telling stories of childhood, spirits, soldiers and lovers, the programme includes songs from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* with songs and readings from many other lands.

Elin Pritchard	soprano
Olivia Warburton	mezzo-soprano
Nicky Spence	tenor
Julien Van Mellaerts	baritone
Jâms Coleman	piano
Christopher Glynn	piano
Alex Jennings	actor

Programme includes: **Mahler** Revelge; Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen; Des Antonius von Padua Fischpredigt; Lob des hohen Verstandes; Rheinlegendchen  
**Brahms** Da unten im Tale; In stiller nacht  
**Schubert** Der Fischer; Erlkönig  
**Schumann** Blaue Augen  
**Liszt** Die drei Zigeuner  
**Tchaikovsky** Was I not a blade of grass?  
**Dvořák** The Pledge of Love  
**Grieg** Solveigs sang  
**Sibelius** Flickan kom ifrån sin älsklings möte  
**Shostakovich** Lullaby  
**Canteloube** Malurous qu'ò uno fenno  
**Fauré** Levati, sol che la luna è levata  
**Grainger** Bold William Taylor  
**Ireland** The three ravens  
**Copland** I bought me a cat  
**Warlock** Yarmouth Fair  
**Clarke** The Seal Man  
**Britten** Tom Bowling

**Tickets** £40 £35 £30 £25 £18

Available from Wigmore Hall Box Office  
wigmore-hall.org.uk | 020 7935 2141

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## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 25 November –

Sunday 2 December

Led by Sir John Tomlinson, Patricia MacMahon, Joseph Middleton, Jonathan Ware and Mandy Demetriou with staff pianist Ian Tindale



### Masterclass & Concert

Saturday 1 December

1.30 – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6.15pm

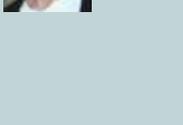
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Joining Samling's leadership team for the first time, internationally renowned bass Sir John Tomlinson shares his musical knowledge and expertise with eight new Samling Artists. This working session – open to the public – is followed by a short concert bringing together the worlds of opera and concert performance; the highlight of Samling's residential week.

Alexandra Lowe	soprano
Samantha Clarke	soprano
Patrick Terry	countertenor
Filipe Manu	tenor
Jonathan de Garis	baritone
Samuel Carl	bass-baritone
Natalie Burch	piano
Maria Struckova	piano

**Tickets** Masterclass and Concert £16.50

Available from Sage Gateshead  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



## A NIGHT AT THE ITALIAN OPERA

Saturday 9 February, 7.30pm

Sage One, Sage Gateshead

After the triumph of last season's 'Night at the Viennese Opera' and just in time for Valentine's Day, Samling returns with the full forces of Royal Northern Sinfonia for a romantic evening of some of the best of Italian opera. Maestro Paul-Emmanuel Thomas joins Sir Thomas Allen and a cast of Samling Artists for an evening full of glorious tunes.

Paul-Emmanuel Thomas	conductor
Sir Thomas Allen	baritone
Simona Mihai	soprano
Rachel Kelly	mezzo-soprano
Nicky Spence	tenor
Morgan Pearse	baritone

Royal Northern Sinfonia  
Samling Academy Singers

**Tickets** £40 £32.50 £26 £16.50

Available from Sage Gateshead  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 24 February – Sunday 3 March

Yvonne Kenny, Malcolm Martineau and Jonathan Ware come together to pass on their knowledge and experience to the next generation.



### Samling Masterclass & Concert

Saturday 2 March

1.30 – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6.15pm

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

**Tickets** Masterclass and Concert £16.50

Available from Sage Gateshead  
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661

