



INSITUTE
FOR YOUNG
ARTISTS

news

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A New Era

For a charity that has helped to nurture the careers of some of the world's finest young classical singers and accompanists, Samling has embarked on a new era with a change of name. From now on we are to be known as Samling Institute for Young Artists.

Filipe Manu, tenor and Marija Stručkova, pianist
Samling Masterclass
Sage Gateshead December 2018
Photo: Mark Savage

The new name – since only an organisation operating at the highest level can become an institute – is a powerful endorsement of Samling's work with singers and piano accompanists at the start of their careers.

'Samling is a leading authority in the training of young classical voices and piano accompanists, both nationally and internationally,' said John Gilhooly, director of Wigmore Hall.

'Many Samling Artists go on to enjoy highly successful international careers on the concert platform and in opera houses around the world, and there is very often a good number of Samling alumni in any given season at Wigmore Hall.'

However, the new name doesn't mean we are jettisoning the old.

'We wanted to keep Samling in our name as it is an important part of our story,' said Artistic and Executive Director Karon Wright. 'It is originally an old Norse word that can mean 'gathering' or 'collective', and bringing people together is very much something we stand for.

In German 'Sämling' translates as 'seedling' which also seems very appropriate somehow as we are in the business of growing young talent.'

'We believe the change of name will enable the charity to go from strength to strength,' she said. 'After two decades in the business, we now have an established track record of excellence and expertise within the classical vocal world but the time has come to have a name that better reflects the work we do and our national and international reach.'

'As a founding partner in Samling Academy in 2012, Newcastle University hoped that our own students and other young singers in the North East would have access to coaching of the highest level, not just in vocal technique but in stage presence and modern languages,' said Eric Cross, Dean of Cultural Affairs at Newcastle University.

'This has proved from the very first year to be the case. I can speak at first hand for the difference that the Academy experience has

made... raising their aspirations and giving them a taste of genuine professional standards. For some this experience has undoubtedly been transformational,' he said.

Nicholas Sears, Head of Vocal and Opera at the Royal College of Music said, 'Samling enjoys a unique place within the national network of organisations supporting the development of young musical talent. Its two distinctive programmes, Samling Artist Programme and Samling Academy, address both national musical priorities providing international level tuition with a fiercely proud and focused regional dimension.'

As we enter a new year, all at Samling are looking forward to building on what we have achieved so far. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us over the past twenty-two years as we look forward to many more years to come inspiring musical excellence in young people.

Please see back page for some of the highlights coming your way in 2019.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE Samling Shorts with Simona Mihai, Alumni Success, Samling Academy, Wigmore Showcase **Back Page: Dates for your Diary!**

WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'A tremendous venture that enriches the cultural value of our region and the whole nation. Bravo!'
Bob Murphy, audience member

SAMLING SHORTS



Simona Mihai

A 2004 Samling Artist, Romanian-British soprano Simona Mihai has been praised as being 'a knockout, pure, in full command of the taxing vocal line' (The Stage).

Simona graduated from the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House in 2010, and since then her appearances continue to be met with great acclaim. Her recent highlights include singing both Musetta and Mimi in Richard Jones' new production of *La bohème* at the Royal Opera House as well as Nedda in *Pagliacci* both at Royal Opera House and at Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie.

Simona returns to Samling on 9 February when she joins Sir Thomas Allen, Samling Artists Rachel Kelly, Nicky Spence and Morgan Pearse along with Royal Northern Sinfonia for 'A Night at the Italian Opera'.

The last piece of music I listened to was...

Shostakovich's String Quartet No.7

The dream role I have yet to sing is...

Amelia Grimaldi

My three carry-on essentials are...

Water, vocal score, antibacterial

If I wasn't a singer, I'd be...

Thoracic Surgeon

If I could have a cocktail with any composer, alive or dead, it would be with...

BACH! And I would introduce him to Dim Sum

The most underrated opera is...

The Turn of the Screw

When I have the day off I...

Go on long walks with my folks

My favourite Samling memory is...

Reading Shakespeare's sonnets with Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Richard Pasco

'As a Samling graduate myself now fully immersed in the profession and having just returned from teaching at Samling Academy, it is very clear to me what a phenomenal organisation this is.'

Anna Stéphany, mezzo soprano and Samling Artist

Inspired... Samling Academy

From exploring what it is to be truly in the moment in performance with actor James Garnon to learning to 'own' the stage through learning the gestures of Argentinian Tango, our Academy Singers got off to a dramatic start to their year.



Photos © Mark Pinder

Working with our expert leadership team over six days in October, they had lessons in vocal technique, diction, language coaching, acting and stagecraft, movement and choreography.

Academy Music Director Caroline Dowdle and singing teachers Patricia MacMahon and Miranda Wright, along with choreographer and movement coach Mandy Demetriou, led the workshops, supported by seven outstanding pianists – all Samling Artists.

We were also delighted to welcome back mezzo soprano Anna Stéphany. A Samling Artist from 2005, Anna gave lessons to all

of our thirty Academy Singers and a riveting insight in a Q&A session into her journey into classical music and her life as an artist performing at the top concert halls and opera houses across the world.

'The guidance, the nurturing, the inspiration, the advice, the experience and exposure that Samling offers young singers is second to none,' Anna said. 'Actors, conductors, teachers, pianists, singers, movement specialists, all working in the business, are invited to share their expertise with the young singers and this is what makes Samling so special, the whole experience is all so relevant and immediate.'



'Samling has been the linchpin to my character as much as my musical development over the last four years.'
Ben Laxton, Academy Singer

Alumni Success

Michael Pandya wins two major awards

British pianist Michael Pandya (Samling Artist 2016 & 2017) has taken home two major prizes, winning the 2018 Gerald Moore Award in October and the 2018 Maureen Lehane Vocal Award Accompanist Prize in November.



A biennial competition for piano accompanists of the song repertoire, the Gerald Moore Award was founded in 1992 in memory of the icon in the world of twentieth-century accompanists. Michael performed alongside Samling Artist soprano Harriet Burns and joins a group of past winners that includes Samling Artists Finnegan Downie Dear, Timothy End, Somi Kim, John Reid, Ian Tindale and William Vann.

Luis Gomes captures audience's heart at Operalia

Portuguese tenor Luis Gomes (Samling Artist 2012) has won two prizes at the 2018 Operalia competition in Lisbon: the Don Plácido Domingo Ferrer Prize of Zarzuela as well as the Prize of the Audience.



Considered one of the most prestigious operatic competitions in the world, Operalia was founded in 1993 by Plácido Domingo. Its past prize-winners include Nina Stemme, Erwin Schrott, Joyce DiDonato, Rolando Villazón, Joseph Calleja, Sonya Yoncheva, as well as Samling Artist Kiandra Howarth. Luis most recently appeared with Samling in 2017 in our 'A Night at the Viennese Opera' with Royal Northern Sinfonia at Sage Gateshead.

Wigmore Showcase



Above: Backstage at Samling Artist Showcase, Wigmore Hall, November 2018 (L-R): Christopher Glynn, Nicky Spence, Gareth Brynmor John, Elin Pritchard, Alex Jennings, Olivia Warburton and Jâms Coleman.

Right: Samling Artists mezzo soprano Olivia Warburton, pianist Jâms Coleman and soprano Elin Pritchard joined In Tune host Sean Rafferty (left) on BBC Radio 3. They performed works by Dvorak, Sibelius, Grieg, Fauré and Copland and chatted about their time with Samling Institute and how much they were looking forward to performing at Wigmore Hall.





SAMLING ACADEMY 'TASTER DAY'

Saturday 12 January, 10am – 3.30pm
Northumbria University

An invitation to students and schoolchildren studying or growing up in the North East to join us for a day to discover what Samling Academy can offer ahead of our annual auditions in March.

Please email enquires@samling.org.uk or call 01434 602885 for more information



SAMLING ACADEMY SUMMER CONCERTS
'Come into the Garden'

Academy Singers present a programme inspired by gardens, the language of flowers and our response to nature in song and words.

Saturday 20 July, 7.30pm
The Witham, Barnard Castle
thewitham.org.uk | 01833 631 107

Wednesday 24 July, 7.30pm
Saltburn Community Theatre
saltburnarts.co.uk | 01287 624 997

Friday 26 July, 7.30pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661

Tickets Available later in the year



A NIGHT AT THE ITALIAN OPERA

Saturday 9 February, 7.30pm
Sage One, Sage Gateshead

An evening of glorious music and unchained passion as Samling Institute joins forces with Royal Northern Sinfonia. Conductor Paul-Emmanuel Thomas, Sir Thomas Allen and a cast of the finest Samling Artists present a programme that includes highlights from some of the best loved operas of all time, including Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *La traviata* and Puccini's *Tosca* and *La bohème*.

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|----------------------|---------------|
| 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 ACADEMY

4 – 6 October and 18 – 20 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:

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|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Caroline Dowdle | Music Director |
| Patricia MacMahon | Vocal Teacher |
| Miranda Wright | Samling Artist/Vocal Teacher |
| Mandy Demetriou | Choreographer |
| James Garnon | Actor |

Samling Artist pianists including:

Somi Kim
Michael Pandya
Jo Ramadan
Ian Tindale
Jonathan Ware

Samling Academy Concert
Sunday 20 October, 7.30pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Tickets £14
Available from Sage Gateshead later in the year
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 24 February – Sunday 3 March

Led by soprano Yvonne Kenny, pianists Malcolm Martineau and Jonathan Ware and actor Alex Hassell. With staff pianist Samling Artist Ian Tindale.



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|-------------------|----------|
| Sarah Gilford | Soprano |
| Anna Cavaliero | Soprano |
| Rose Stachniewska | Soprano |
| Satriya Krisna | Tenor |
| Jerome Knox | Baritone |
| Yi-Shing Cheng | Piano |
| Kunal Lahiry | Piano |

Samling Masterclass & Concert
Saturday 2 March

1.30– 4.30pm and 5.15– 6.15pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead



Masters of opera, song, stage and screen lead a public masterclass followed by a short concert where eight rising stars of classical music showcase their musical brilliance.

Tickets Masterclass and Concert £16.50
£5 (unders 25s)
Available from Sage Gateshead
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE

Friday 8 November, 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall, London

Samling returns to Wigmore Hall for its annual Showcase as part of the venue's prestigious Song Series.

Full programme details and tickets available from 21 May.

wigmore-hall.org.uk | 020 7935 2141



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 17 – Sunday 24 November

Led by soprano Anne Schwanewilms, pianist James Baillieu and actor James Garnon with staff pianist Samling Artist Somi Kim.

Samling Masterclass & Concert
Saturday 23 November

1.30 – 4.30pm and 5.15 – 6.15pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Tickets Masterclass and Concert £16.50
£5 (unders 25s)
Available from Sage Gateshead later in the year
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



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

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