



Samling Academy  
October 2019  
Photo: Mark Pinder

## Samling Academy Goes Virtual

**Samling Academy will look rather different this year, but one thing that hasn't changed is that thirty young singers in the North East will still receive six intensive days of training in a wide range of singing and performance skills.**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our Samling Academy sessions in October will move to an online format. Our brilliant leadership team have been hard at work over the summer devising activities and workshops that can take place virtually in preparation for solo and group masterclasses.

One of the biggest challenges of online music-making is an unavoidable delay that makes it impossible for a singer and pianist to perform together remotely in real time. To overcome this our Samling Artist pianists have generously recorded the accompaniments for each participant's solo repertoire – a total of 120 pieces of music. The singers will then perform live to these pre-recorded accompaniments in the group masterclass sessions.

The recordings are also proving useful in helping singers to prepare for their masterclasses and they will form a valuable resource for the future, giving us a library of recordings that we can use to support young singers who don't have access to a piano at home.

Each Academy Singer will receive a one-to-one session with the acclaimed soprano Joan Rodgers CBE, who joins the Academy leadership team for the first time. She will work alongside music director Caroline Dowdle, vocal coaches Patricia MacMahon and Samling Artist Miranda Wright and Samling Artist pianists James Baillieu, Jonathan Ware, Jo Ramadan and Ian Tindale.

We are also welcoming language coach and pianist Emma Abbate who will run workshops on singing in Italian and will drop in on the masterclasses to support individual singers with their Italian repertoire. Pippa Anderson will be leading a workshop on the vitally important topic of vocal health, while Shakespearean actor James Garnon and movement coach Mandy Demetriou will transfer their energetic and imaginative sessions on approaching text and stagecraft to an online format.

During lockdown, video has been the only way that artists have been able to communicate with their audience, and whatever happens to live music in the future, online performances are certain to remain a big part of our lives.

**'This virtual Academy will equip our Academy Singers with the skills they need to present themselves confidently and professionally on camera'**

Artistic and Executive Director, Karon Wright

Following a session on singing straight to camera and the technicalities of setting up their video, they'll be able to put these new skills into practice in a recorded performance. We'll be making a special highlights video of this virtual Academy so that we can share their achievements with our Friends and supporters.

You'll be able to see our virtual Academy in action on our website and social media channels later in the autumn.

### Samling Institute films

## Musical Collaboration



**We continue our video series in which Samling Artists reflect on different aspects of what the Samling Artist Programme has meant to them.**

Baritone Morgan Pearse talks about the process of discovery that comes from working alongside other artists. You can watch the video on our website at [samling.org.uk/samling-artist-video-morgan-pearse](http://samling.org.uk/samling-artist-video-morgan-pearse)

Photo: Lars Borges / Sony Classical

## A new way to support Samling Institute

As live music begins its recovery, our life-changing work – sustaining the next generation of singers and pianists – is needed more than ever. Please consider supporting us with a one-off or regular donation via our new CAF Donate page. You can donate via credit card or with your CAF account. It's quick, easy and secure and if you add Gift Aid, your donation will go even further towards helping brilliant young artists.



Find out more at [samling.org.uk/support](http://samling.org.uk/support)

## Back on Stage

Beginning with a performance in a Berlin car park of *Das Rheingold*, opera companies across Europe have been finding innovative ways to bring live opera back safely.

Samling Artist Derek Welton sang in that ground-breaking performance and went on to appear in Salzburg International Festival's *Elektra*, performed indoors, with a full orchestra and in front of an audience of one thousand people. He explains how these productions were managed and how he felt about being back on stage.

**'Everybody was elated, of course ... It was so exciting to be part of the very first return to opera performance in the entire world – we felt like pioneers'**

'I was due to sing Wotan in Stefan Herheim's new production of *Das Rheingold* for Deutsche Oper, and when it was cancelled



Derek Welton as Wotan in Deutsche Oper 'Das Rheingold auf dem Parkdeck'. Photo credit: Bernd Uhlig

I think everybody assumed that that was it. However, the management of the Deutsche Oper had a brilliant idea – to stage the opera in a section of the theatre's parking garage, using the chamber orchestra adaptation by Jonathan Dove and Graham Vick.

The production was devised in such a way that we would never come in contact with each other and that we would be at least three

metres away from anybody who was singing. This was then approved by the Berlin authorities and, at very short notice, we got given the green light!

Later in the summer, when I performed in *Elektra* at the Salzburg International Festival, the situation was quite different from Berlin. It was accepted that it would not be possible to maintain distance on stage or in the orchestra pit, so all of us on stage were considered one risk group, which meant that the piece could be staged as normal. It was very much a full staging of *Elektra* – no compromises there!

Before starting rehearsals we had to test negative; we were tested regularly throughout the rehearsal and production period and we also had to maintain a daily register of people with whom we had come into close contact. All of us felt the weight of responsibility on us to do our part to ensure that the Festival could go ahead.'

You can read Derek's full article on our website: [samling.org.uk/back-on-stage](http://samling.org.uk/back-on-stage)

## SAMLING SHORTS



## Angharad Lyddon

Mezzo-soprano Angharad Lyddon was a Samling Artist in 2016. Following undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music, she has appeared with English National Opera, Glyndebourne, The Grange Festival and Buxton International Festival. She represented Wales at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019 and was a finalist in the Song Prize. She will sing Elgar's *Sea Pictures* at our upcoming Samling Artist Showcase.

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

Glyndebourne's YouTube stream of *Billy Budd*. I saw this production three times when I was a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne in 2013. It is one of my all-time favourite productions. The casting is superb and I love the way the set of the boat mimics the shape of the Glyndebourne auditorium to make you feel like you're on the boat with the performers. The Prom they performed that year is one of my highlights. As Mark Padmore retreated from the stage after delivering the epilogue the packed Royal Albert Hall was captivated and completely silent until he had totally disappeared from view. Goosebumps. It was a very special moment.

**My three seaside travel essentials are ...**

suncream, my multi-coloured beach towel and a good book.

**My favourite part of *Sea Pictures* is ...**

the passage in 'Sabbath Morning at Sea' from 'He shall assist me to look higher ...' to the end. The mood of the song changes and the beautiful soaring melody of positivity gives momentum all the way to the end. It always makes me smile.

**My favourite beach is ...**

Camps Bay in Cape Town. My boyfriend grew up in South Africa and we went there a couple of years ago. The sand is white, the water is crystal clear and the breeze from the mountains is lovely but the sea is absolutely freezing!

**Fish and chips or ice-cream?**

I have very sweet teeth so definitely ice-cream! And maybe a chocolate cone...

**My dream musical companion for a walk on the cliffs would be ...**

Bill Bailey. Despite being mostly known as a comedian he's a very talented musician. His 'Remarkable Guide to the Orchestra' which he filmed with the BBC Concert Orchestra is fantastic and his shows always include some kind of music. He's also a renowned bird watcher so he could teach me about the birds we'd come across on our walk and we could improvise songs about what we see before having a nice pint in a country pub to finish.

**My best memory from BBC Cardiff Singer of the World was ...**

singing 'Silent Noon' in the final of the Song Prize. I was so delighted to have won a place in the final and the programme I chose was full of my favourite pieces so I felt nervous about the occasion but felt I could really enjoy the repertoire because I knew it so well. 'Silent Noon' is one of my all-time favourite songs and it was the final piece in the programme. Performing it with Llŷr Williams was a dream and when I finished I just couldn't help breaking out into a huge smile. It's a very strong memory for me.

## DIARY DATES

As we respond to Covid-19, we are making new plans for our upcoming events. Please check our website and social media channels for the latest information.



Samling Institute for Young Artists  
Community Centre | Gillesgate | Hexham | Northumberland | NE46 3NP  
Tel: 01434 602885 | Email: [enquiries@samling.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@samling.org.uk) | [samling.org.uk](http://samling.org.uk)  
Patron: Sir Thomas Allen CBE  
Artistic and Executive Director: Karon Wright  
Registered Charity No: 1112032 | Company No: 05576907



SamlingInstitute



@Samling\_Inst



samling\_institute