



Photo: Mark Prader

Sir Mark Elder working with Samling Artists pianist Leo Nicholson and bass William Thomas, Samling Artist Programme, July 2021. Full story inside.

New beginnings

After more than a year of working online we are overjoyed that live activities are resuming and we couldn't think of a better way to start than with our flagship Samling Artist Programme.

Held for the first time at Marchmont House in a new creative partnership, eight young artists – six singers and two pianists – spent an intensive week receiving coaching and guidance from our stellar leadership team.

We welcomed conductor Sir Mark Elder, who joined us for the first time, along with our Patron, Sir Thomas Allen, soprano Yvonne Kenny, actor Alex Jennings and staff pianist Samling Artist Lana Bode. Our artists told us that after such a difficult year, they took inspiration from the week and valued the support that they received from our leaders and from each other, both in the formal classes and in the downtime over shared meals.

Our singers and pianists also received a rare opportunity to explore songs with the composer who wrote them when Jonathan Dove joined us.

Jonathan also previewed the duet song cycle *Man, Woman, Child* which we have commissioned from him to celebrate our 25th anniversary and shared insights into its composition process.

Samling Artists soprano Alexandra Lowe, tenor Filipe Manu and pianist James Baillieu will give the world premiere of the cycle at Wigmore Hall on Sunday 7 November 2021. They will be joined by mezzo-soprano Kitty Whately, bass William Thomas and pianist Ian Tindale for a programme of song in English that draws on the themes of *Man, Woman, Child*.

In September, we are holding live auditions in London and Glasgow for our 2022 Samling Artist Programme, following a first round of online submissions. We look forward to returning to Marchmont House in November and February when we hope we can invite audiences to join us.

Samling Academy

Following auditions held live online in March, we look forward to meeting our 30 Samling

Academy singers for six days of workshops and masterclasses in October. After leading online masterclasses in 2020, soprano Joan Rodgers CBE will join us in person this year, along with Music Director Caroline Dowdle, vocal coaches Patricia MacMahon and Samling Artist Miranda Wright and a team of outstanding Samling Artist pianists. The six days of training will end with a concert of songs, arias and ensembles at Sage Gateshead, and we hope that you will be able to join us there to support our younger singers as they return to the stage.

'It was a pleasure to welcome these eight supremely talented young musicians and the distinguished team of leaders, who filled Marchmont House with music. We're immensely excited about our future plans with Samling Institute as part of our dream to make a home to makers and creators, so we're looking forward to the next stages in our partnership.'

Hugo Burge, Director.
Marchmont Farms Limited

WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'Thank you as ever for your unwavering support to artists, I so appreciate everything Samling has done for me, and continues to do for others as well.' *Samling Artist Claire Barnett-Jones*

SAMLING SHORTS

Jonathan Dove

Jonathan Dove CBE is one of the world's leading composers of vocal music. Since his breakthrough opera *Flight*, commissioned by Glyndebourne in 1998, he has composed almost thirty operatic works as well as song cycles and choral works. His commitment to creating music for everyone has led to works for children and community singers, including *Tobias and the Angel* and *The Monster in the Maze*. He grew up learning the piano, organ and viola before studying composition with Robin Holloway at Cambridge. His early professional experience as a freelance accompanist, répétiteur, animateur and arranger gave him a deep understanding of singers and the complex mechanics of the opera house.

Photo: Mark Pinder



My earliest musical memory is...

My mother playing the piano in the living room as her three children drifted off to sleep. She worked hard as an architect, and as a mother, so this was the only time she had to herself, playing Handel's 'Largo', Debussy's *Claire de lune*, or perhaps something from *Oklahoma*. In the morning, I would try to play, from memory, what I'd heard her playing the night before, and that's how it all started.

A poet everyone should discover is...

Judith Wright, an Australian poet to whose work I was introduced by Samling's Director Karon Wright (no relation), and whose poems I set in *Man, Woman, Child*. Her life spans most of the 20th Century. She writes lyrically and directly, with wonderful vitality, about life and love and nature. Setting her words to music, I discovered that the clarity and appeal of her writing is deceptive: it has hidden depths, and takes the reader or listener further than they were expecting.

The last live performance I heard was...

A beautifully condensed version of *Hansel and Gretel* actually performed in a wood, by Waterperry Opera. It was completely enchanting. Singers emerged from the trees, or started singing in the distance somewhere behind the audience; one even accompanied himself on the accordion, which was quite a coup.

My perfect summer evening is...

Somewhere Mediterranean, eating outdoors until late. But if I'm in London, a light picnic before an opera in Holland Park, or a Prom.

The character from my operas who I'd most like to have dinner with is...

Karl Marx! (*Marx in London*, 2018) It would be fascinating, possibly maddening and probably bewildering. Although he wrote so much about money, he never seemed to have any, so I would have to pay the bill, of course.

The place I dream of travelling to is...

All of Latin America, when my Spanish is a little stronger.

The best thing about composing vocal music is...

Hearing wonderful singers produce sounds I can only dream of making. It feels as though I am singing with their voices.

My advice to young singers performing my songs is...

Use all of your imagination: see everything you are singing about in your mind's eye, and bring all of your feelings into the performance.

I hardly ever mark dynamics or expression for the singer, as I want your musical performance to be shaped by your individual response to the words, and to the stories they tell. Not everything is in the notes: the music needs you, too.

Man, Woman, Child

'I can't sing, I can only sing through you. My task is to offer you something that will allow you to make a connection and take the texts out into the world.'
Jonathan Dove

During our Samling Artist Programme week, composer Jonathan Dove guided us through the duet song-cycle that Samling Institute has commissioned from him to mark our 25th anniversary. The cycle sets six poems by the Australian poet, Judith

Wright, and combines spirited singing with moments of great tenderness.

Jonathan told us that generally he has a dialogue with poems so that the words tell him how they want to be sung, and in these simple but profound texts he found that he was being drawn to new sounds. He begins with the piano part, records sketches and listens to them on walks, allowing the melody to emerge gradually. He also explained his process in balancing the clarity of text with artistic expression, with the hope that the audience will understand the words on first hearing.

By writing a duet cycle – a relatively unusual form – Jonathan had to explore the idea of a relationship between the singers, and so a narrative of a man and woman meeting and the birth of a child gradually emerged from the chosen poems. The finished cycle mixes duets with solo songs for each voice, to allow flexibility in performance and will be published in versions for high and low voices by Peters Editions.

Following the premiere in November, the version for mezzo-soprano and baritone will receive its first performance at Marchmont House on Friday 20 May 2022.

'Working with such wonderful leaders in the setting of Marchmont House was deeply inspiring and the intensity of the week brought me and the other singers closer together too.'
Samling Artist Ted Black

Samling Artist Programme

After the challenges of planning the week, and having rescheduled four times over the last year, it felt like nothing short of a miracle when our artists and leaders arrived at Marchmont, with negative Covid tests and ready to go.

We held the week under strict Covid security protocols and thus were not able to hold public events. However, we filmed the final masterclasses and we will be sharing these on our website very soon. We welcome our new Samling Artists sopranos Lauren Lodge-Campbell and Faryl Smith, mezzo-soprano Maria Hegele, tenors Michael Bell and Ted Black, bass William Thomas and pianists Lucy Colquhoun and Leo Nicholson.



Sir Thomas Allen, Yvonne Kenny, and Alex Jennings leading our new Samling Artists in masterclass sessions.

Photos: Mark Pinder



BBC Cardiff Singer of the World

Samling Artists saw continued success at this year's BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition.

Soprano Sarah Gilford represented Wales as winner of the Welsh Singers Showcase, and reached the final of the Song Prize. Meanwhile, mezzo-soprano Claire Barnett-Jones was called up to fill a reserve place with just a day's notice. Her performance won her a place in the Main Prize final where she went on to take the Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize. Congratulations Sarah and Claire!

Don't forget, you can read more alumni news every month on our website samling.org.uk/news



Photos: Kristen McCrean



SAMLING ACADEMY
Friday 8 – Sunday 10 October and
Friday 22 – Sunday 24 October

As live music returns, thirty young singers, chosen by audition from across the North East, embark on a year of musical discovery and development.

Caroline Dowdle	Music Director
Patricia MacMahon	Vocal Teacher
Miranda Wright	Samling Artist/Vocal Teacher
Joan Rodgers CBE	Soprano
Nick Pritchard	Samling Artist
James Garnon	Actor
Mandy Demetriou	Choreographer

Samling Artist Pianists:
 James Baillieu, Jonathan Ware, Jean-Paul Pruna, Jo Ramadan, Ian Tindale and Leo Nicholson.



Samling Academy Concert
Sunday 24 October, 3pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Enjoy an afternoon of song and opera as our 2021/22 Samling Academy Singers put into practice the performance skills they have been developing over their first two weekends of training. This delightful programme of solos, duets and ensembles includes music by Handel, Mozart, Fauré, Mendelssohn and Schubert, and is accompanied by Samling Artists James Baillieu, Jonathan Ware, Ian Tindale, Jo Ramadan, Jean-Paul Pruna and Leo Nicholson.

Tickets £14
 Available from Sage Gateshead
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME
Sunday 21 November –
Sunday 28 November

The heart of Samling Institute's work, an intense week of coaching and musical discovery that many previous participants have described as 'life-changing'.

In Masterclass
Saturday 27 November
1.30 – 4.30pm

Marchmont House
 Greenlaw, Berwickshire, TD10 6YL
marchmonthouse.com

Haegee Lee	soprano
Natasha Page	soprano
Olivia Boen	soprano
Shakira Tsindos	mezzo-soprano
Jonathan Evers	baritone
Dan D'Souza	baritone
Kunal Lahiry	piano

Introducing eight new Samling Artists in our public masterclass, led by soprano Joan Rodgers CBE, pianist Malcolm Martineau OBE, actor James Garnon and with staff pianist Jo Ramadan.



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME
Sunday 6 February –
Sunday 13 February 2022

The outstanding French soprano Véronique Gens joins the Samling Artist Programme for the first time, sharing her expertise in French song and baroque repertoire with our eight young artists, along with pianist Caroline Dowdle and actor Alex Hassell.

In Masterclass
Saturday 12 February 2022,
1.30 – 4.30pm

Marchmont House
 Greenlaw, Berwickshire, TD10 6YL
marchmonthouse.com

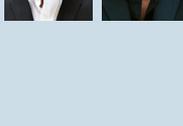


SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE
'Man, Woman, Child'
Sunday 7 November, 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall, London

Alexandra Lowe	soprano
Kitty Whately	mezzo-soprano
Filipe Manu	tenor
William Thomas	bass
James Baillieu	piano
Ian Tindale	piano

Join us as we celebrate our 25th anniversary with our annual showcase concert at London's Wigmore Hall. The programme of English language song will include Ralph Vaughan Williams *Four Last Songs*; Richard Rodney Bennett *Songs Before Sleep*; settings of Thomas Hardy by Gerald Finzi; Benjamin Britten folksong arrangements; songs by Roger Quilter, Elizabeth Maconchy, Margaret Bonds and Eric Coates; and the world premiere of *Man, Woman, Child*, a duet song-cycle by Jonathan Dove.

Tickets £40 £35 £30 £25 £16
 Available from Wigmore Hall Box Office
wigmore-hall.org.uk | 020 7935 2141



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Associate Sponsor:



Jonathan Dove
 commission
 supported by:



We are looking forward to welcoming our Friends and supporters to public masterclasses in the beautiful setting of Marchmont House. Look out for further announcements coming soon about ticket options.

We also hope to offer a return bus service from Berwick-upon-Tweed railway station – please contact us for more details.

To find out more about our Friends scheme, please contact us at enquiries@samling.org.uk or 01434 602885



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