



# A bright year ahead

Samling Artist 25th Anniversary  
Showcase, Wigmore Hall  
Photo: Roger Way Photography

**Although we began our 25th anniversary year in the darkness of lockdown, we have finally been able to celebrate this milestone in the best possible way – with brilliant young people making music on stage in front of an audience.**

After so many long months of online work, it has been a thrill to return to a busy period of live events, with six days of Samling Academy, our 25th anniversary Samling Artist Showcase at Wigmore Hall and a second Artist Programme week at Marchmont House – you can read more about all of these inside this issue.

As the threat of the pandemic seems to be receding, we are excited to be planning a full year of activities for both of our core programmes. We return to Marchmont House in February when eight new Samling Artists will spend the week refining every aspect of their craft. The programme will be led by soprano and celebrated teacher Patricia MacMahon, pianist Caroline Dowdle, actor James Garnon and joining us for the first time, we welcome actor, singer and coach Hervé Goffings, who will be working on French repertoire. Tickets have already sold out for the public masterclass, and we hope that it will be a case of 'third time lucky' after Covid and Storm Arwen both severely restricted audience numbers for our last two public masterclasses.

Our partnership with Marchmont House continues in May with our first concert in

the beautiful Arts and Crafts music room – a space perfectly suited to the intimacy of a song recital. Malcolm Martineau will accompany two Samling Artists in a programme to include Jonathan Dove's new cycle, *Man, Woman, Child*. Jonathan is currently working on the low-voice version of the cycle which will receive its premiere at the opening concert of this year's Leeds Lieder Festival, performed by Samling Artists mezzo-soprano Shakira Tsindos, baritone Dominic Sedgwick and pianist Ian Tindale. If you're not able to get to either of these, we're delighted to tell you that the Leeds Lieder concert will be live-streamed.

This summer, the Samling Academy touring production will return, and as the title for this year's semi-staged concert will be 'Sea Pictures', we're particularly pleased to be taking it to the seaside with a performance at Saltburn Arts. We'll also be exploring this theme further at our Wigmore Hall Showcase on Wednesday 9 November, with a programme built around Elgar's much-loved cycle.

We continue to search for singers with the promise and talent to become Samling Artists and Academy Singers and we'll be

holding live auditions for both of our programmes in the coming months.

Our Samling Futures workshops have been instrumental in increasing the number of state school students in the Academy. We are planning further visits in March to schools and Music Hubs in Durham, Berwickshire, South Tyneside and Gateshead, when Samling Artists and current Academy Singers will inspire more young people to discover classical singing for themselves.



Above: November 2021 Samling Artist Programme with sopranos Haegge Lee and Natasha Page, mezzo-sopranos Shakira Tsindos and Grace Maria Wain, tenor Phillip Costovski, bass-baritone Neil Balfour, pianists Kunal Lahiry and Sid Ramchander, leaders Joan Rodgers, Malcolm Martineau, James Garnon and staff pianist Jo Ramadan.



## WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

**'It is incredible what Samling do for young artists. I've got to say that when I did the course back in 2018, I was, not completely lost, but unsure of where my future was going...it gave me so much confidence and completely turned me around that week.'** *Samling Artist soprano Alexandra Lowe on BBC Radio 3 In Tune*

### SAMLING SHORTS

## Caroline Dowdle



**Caroline Dowdle has been a key member of the Samling Institute team for the last twenty years.** She has been Music Director of Samling Academy since its creation in 2012 and she regularly joins us as a leader on the Samling Artist Programme. Caroline was born in South Africa and studied at the University of Cape Town. She has performed widely in recital with singers and instrumentalists across the world. She coaches young singers on the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House and at the Royal College of Music, and is Head of Opera at the Verbier Festival Atelier Lyrique.

#### My earliest musical memory is...

*My first piano teacher, meeting me for the first time, when I was six, and examining my hands as potential tools for music making.*

#### The last live performance I saw was...

*'Le nozze di Figaro' at the Royal Opera House last week.*

#### My three travel essentials are...

*Good WiFi, a swimming costume and a supply of rusks (South African dried biscuits, comfort food, hard to describe but deeply understood by any South African).*

#### In my free time, I like to...

*potter.*

#### My dream dinner party guests would be...

*Back; Obama; Verlaine and Eddie Izzard (and possibly some interpreters).*

#### My favourite Samling memory is...

*Playing piano duets with fellow pianists and singers after dinner. Great version of Beethoven 5...allowed for as many players as could fit on the stools.*

#### My advice to young song pianists is...

*Learn German and French, and dig into the poetry of the repertoire, it's like switching on a light.*



## Celebrating 25 Years

**Our Samling Artist Showcase at Wigmore Hall brought together six Samling Artists celebrating the achievements of our global Samling family and looking to the future with new music.**

Soprano Alexandra Lowe, tenor Filipe Manu and pianist James Baillieu gave a dramatic and thrilling premiere of Jonathan Dove's song cycle *Man, Woman, Child*. They were joined by mezzo-soprano Kitty Whately, bass William Thomas and pianist Ian Tindale for a programme of 20th and 21st century song in English, reflecting on the themes of life's journey from childhood to maturity. In a detailed review for Opera Today, Claire Seymour gave high praise to all six artists and hoped that there would be further opportunities to hear *Man, Woman, Child* soon.

We were delighted that Jonathan Dove and so many artists, friends and supporters were able to join us for this special evening celebrating our 25th anniversary. We were also immensely grateful to Principal Sponsor Womble Bond Dickinson and Associate Sponsor Brewin Dolphin for their support in making this special concert happen.

Above: Jonathan Dove with Samling Artists Alexandra Lowe, James Baillieu and Filipe Manu at Wigmore Hall  
Photo: Roger Way Photography

**'It is always a pleasure to support Samling and see the next generation of talented musicians perform.'**

Alexander Dickinson, Partner at Womble Bond Dickinson

## Samling Artist Programme

Tickets for our first fully live Samling Artist Masterclass at Marchmont House sold out almost immediately. However the travel disruption caused by Storm Arwen meant that sadly we had a very much reduced audience for a fascinating afternoon of song and opera, led by Joan Rodgers CBE, Malcolm Martineau OBE and actor James Garnon.

'I wasn't too sure what the week would be but it exceeded my every expectation,' said Samling Artist Neil Balfour. 'Literally living, breathing and working with colleagues and tutors has advanced me so much. Internally I took some huge leaps of faith, put myself on the line and the tutors carefully handled that leading to enormous personal growth. I have learned techniques and concepts that I have already implemented into my professional work and will stay with me for the rest of my life. Samling is very, very special to me and I am so proud to be a part of the family.'

**Pictured here: Haegge Lee; Neil Balfour and Natasha Page with Malcolm Martineau and Jo Ramadan; pianist Kunal Lahiry**





'One of the best experiences I've ever had as a young singer – I don't think I've ever felt support like it. Thank you so much!' *Samling Academy Singer Laura Postlethwaite*

# Samling Academy

In the almost complete darkness of Sage Two, the sound of 30 young voices coming together in Poulenc's motet *O Magnum Mysterium* was a truly magical moment.



This was the start of our first live performance since the pandemic and for many of our Academy Singers the concert was also their first time back on stage.

The concert followed six days of intensive coaching in all the skills that go into classical singing – vocal technique and musical skills of course, but also stagecraft, communication, movement and languages. Acclaimed soprano Joan Rodgers who led our digital Academy last year was able to

join us in person this year along with rising star tenor Samling Artist Nick Pritchard and a team of Samling Artists under the direction of Caroline Dowdle. BBC Look North gave the the Academy headline coverage, with the reporter telling us how uplifting it was to cover such a good news story.

Seeing young people sharing music together again, supporting each other and learning from each other has reminded us all that there is no substitute for live music-making.



Photos: Mark Pinder Photography





## SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME Sunday 6 – Sunday 13 February 2022

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

### In Masterclass

**Saturday 12 February 2022**

**1.30 – 4.30pm**

**Marchmont House**

Greenlaw, Berwickshire, TD10 6YL  
marchmonthouse.com

Samling Artists

Olivia Boen

Bridget Esler

Emily Christina Loftus

Bethany Horak-Hallett

Dafydd Jones

Daniel Barrett

Ilan Kurtser

Michael Sikich

soprano

soprano

soprano

mezzo-soprano

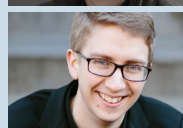
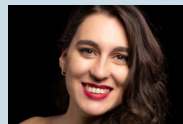
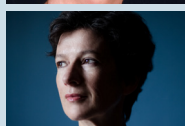
tenor

baritone

piano

piano

Introducing eight new Samling Artists in a public masterclass, held in the stunning music room at Marchmont House, led by Patricia MacMahon, Caroline Dowdle, Hervé Goffings and James Garnon, with staff pianist Samling Artist Ian Tindale.



## 'MAN, WOMAN, CHILD'

Following the world premiere at Wigmore Hall, we present two more special performances of Jonathan Dove's cycle *Man, Woman, Child* with the Scottish premiere at Marchmont House and the premiere of the low-voice version in partnership with Leeds Lieder.

**Thursday 28 April 2022, 1pm**

**Howard Assembly Rooms, Leeds**

Shakira Tsindos

mezzo-soprano

Dominic Sedgwick

baritone

Ian Tindale

piano

**Friday 20 May 2022, 7.30pm**

**Marchmont House**

Two rising star Samling Artists, accompanied by celebrated pianist Malcolm Martineau, present a song programme in English. The programme will also include music by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford and Ralph Vaughan Williams, both of whom had strong associations with this beautiful home in the Scottish Borders.



## SAMLING ACADEMY SUMMER CONCERT 'SEA PICTURES'

Our Samling Academy Singers present a semi-staged concert of songs, ensembles and poetry inspired by the sea.

**Wednesday 13 July 2022, 7.30pm**

**Saltburn Arts, Saltburn-by-the-Sea**

**Friday 15 July 2022, 7.30pm**

**Sage Two, Sage Gateshead**

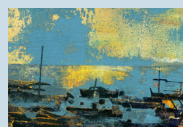


## SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE 'SEA PICTURES'

**Wednesday 9 November 2022, 7.30pm**  
**Wigmore Hall, London**

Based around song cycles with a maritime theme, the programme includes Sibelius' *Luonnotar* based on a Finnish creation myth, Rimsky-Korsakov's rarely performed cycle *U Morya*, Fauré's *L'horizon chimérique* and Elgar's *Sea Pictures* in the composer's version for piano.

For more details of all events, please see our website.



## Priority Booking at Marchmont for Samling Friends

As we resume live events, why not join our Friends and receive priority booking for all our events at Marchmont House.

Although restrictions around Covid appear to be relaxing, we remain cautious and so we expect that places for our events at Marchmont House in 2022 will be very limited – tickets for November's masterclass sold out before we were able to offer them more widely.

Samling Friends are at the heart of our creative community. Together, they help make the Samling experience unique and we are hugely grateful for their support. Membership costs just £40 for individuals or £60 for a couple. You'll also receive invitations to other events as well as the opportunity to meet international artists and rising stars over a drink after concerts.

For more details and to join, visit [samling.org.uk/support/friends](https://samling.org.uk/support/friends)



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