



Samling and song



Samling Academy Singers in
'Sea Pictures' at Sage Gateshead
Photo: Mark Pinder

Song has always been at the heart of everything we do at Samling Institute. It demands supreme artistry and can speak intimately to audiences.

This year we are launching Samling and Song, an innovative project which will offer Samling Artist singer and pianist duos mentored residencies. This new scheme deepens our commitment to art-song and widens the career development that we are able to offer to early-career artists following completion of the Samling Artist Programme. (Please see inside for more details).

In November, one of the world's greatest mezzo-sopranos, Dame Sarah Connolly, will join us for the first time to lead the **Samling Artist Programme** at Marchmont House. French conductor Paul-Emmanuel Thomas, who conducted our February 2019 Italian Opera Gala with Royal Northern Sinfonia, also leads the programme for the first time, and we welcome back Samling Artist pianist Joseph Middleton and actor James Garnon.

You'll be able to watch the team working with our eight new Samling Artists and sharing their insights into song and opera in a public masterclass at Marchmont House on the afternoon of Saturday 3 December. The line-up of singers and pianists who have been offered places on this programme and for March 2023 will be announced following live auditions in London and Glasgow in September.

Continuing the opportunities we offer to emerging artists, soprano Madison Nonoa will make her Wigmore Hall debut in our **Samling Artist Showcase** on Wednesday 9 November, alongside mezzo-soprano Angharad Lyddon, tenor Nick Pritchard, baritone Julien Van Mellaerts and pianists Jonathan Ware and Kunal Lahiry. They'll be performing the programme of sea-themed song cycles that was originally planned for November 2020, including Elgar's *Sea Pictures*.

Samling Academy, our training programme for singers from schools and universities in the North East, returns in October when we welcome thirty singers

who were awarded places following auditions in March. We're particularly pleased that the proportion of singers from state schools continues to increase, reflecting on the success of our Samling Futures programme through which we introduce young people to classical music and share with them the opportunities and pathways we offer through the Academy.

Acclaimed soprano Joan Rodgers CBE joins the Academy leadership team again for six days of masterclasses and workshops. We also welcome for the first time actor James Cooney and Samling Artist bass-baritone Andri Björn Róbertsson who will be working with our Academy Singers on stagecraft, exploration of text and meaning and being honest and true to oneself in performance.

An afternoon concert at Sage Gateshead on Sunday 23 October will showcase the work that has been achieved and early booking is recommended as this event is always very popular.

For full details of events and ticket information please see p4.

WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'My time at Samling was transformational. There is no other programme like it that offers the chance to completely and fully immerse yourself in your art.'

Samling Artist mezzo-soprano Bethany Horak-Hallett

SAMLING SHORTS

Dame Sarah Connolly

Mezzo-soprano Dame Sarah Connolly grew up in County Durham and studied piano and singing at the Royal College of Music. Her broad repertoire encompasses everything from Handel's heroic 'trouser roles' to Mahler symphonies, French song and a commitment to promoting new music. She has appeared in the world's greatest opera houses and gave a memorable performance at Last Night of the Proms dressed as Lord Nelson. Her most recent recording is the Complete Songs of Duparc, with pianist Malcolm Martineau (alongside Samling Artists Nicky Spence and William Thomas).

My earliest musical memory ...

My parents took me to Darlington Civic theatre when I was about 6 years old to hear 'The Magic Flute'. I just remember the excitement, the drama – the huge snake, and orchestra and voices sounding so near and fresh. Dad played a lot of classical records at home but hearing it live was mind blowing.

The most recent live performance I saw was ...

'Rigoletto' at The Met opera. I wasn't bowled over I must say but the soprano Erin Morley sang and acted so beautifully as Gilda and coped very well with a stage exit door with no handle!

My three essential travel items are...

Earl Grey tea leaves (and strainer), my iPhone and Olaplex hair conditioner.

My favourite place in North East England is ...

Whitby and Sandsend. Almost every childhood summer holiday was spent on the freezing beach braving the numbingly cold sea. Getting a stick of rock in Whitby was our treat and walking around the town which was always so bustling and noisy with life. We enjoyed the fairground rides and I usually got a wasp in my candy floss!

A song composer more people should discover is ...

Clara Schumann. She only wrote a few songs by comparison to her husband Robert but she was a really gifted melodist with her own style of piano accompaniments (being a supremely gifted concert pianist).

The opera character I most admire is ...

Wagner's Brünnhilde. She embodies some of the best virtues; strength, honesty, empathy, bravery and tenderness.

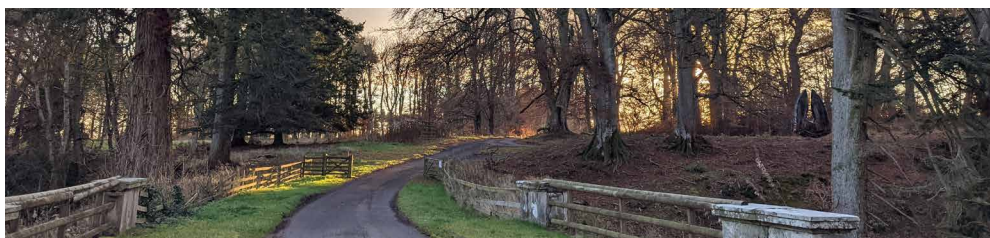
When I have time off, I like to ...

cycle through villages (though not if it's too hilly), mess about on the beach and sea, cook and drink wine with friends, a spot of gardening, reading and playing the piano.

My advice to young singers is ...

work hard at your technique, listen to lots of recordings to discover what you like, study languages and find the music YOU love to sing. If your teacher hands you an aria that after a month you hate, find something that you like instead. We need to interpret the music and the character and that's just not possible if there's no fondness or connection.

You can see Dame Sarah in masterclass with our eight new Samling Artists at Marchmont House on 3 December 2022.



Launch of Samling and Song

The intimacy of song demands supreme artistry, soul-searching honesty and deep commitment. It also requires bravery and imagination – unlike opera, there is no director to tell you what to do and no costume or set to aid the performance.

Over the years, we have seen how many singers and pianists have formed fruitful musical partnerships during our Artist Programme. To help these duos to flourish, whilst also encouraging innovation in the performance of art-song, we are launching Samling and Song, a residency programme in partnership with Marchmont Makers Foundation.

We are inviting Samling Artist singer and pianist duos to develop, promote and perform art song recital programmes.

Applicants will be asked to show that they have plans to perform their programme in UK venues outside London, and we are looking for imaginative proposals that present repertoire in new ways or in unusual spaces, engage with other art forms or introduce music by underrepresented groups.

Two duos will be selected each year for a fully-funded residential week on Marchmont Estate where they can take inspiration from both the beautiful natural environment and art collection and from Marchmont's thriving community of visual artists. They will also be offered mentoring in all aspects of their project, from planning through to performance.

More information about the scheme and who is eligible is available on our website.

Man, Woman, Child at Marchmont

The Scottish premiere of *Man, Woman, Child* was given in May by Samling Artists soprano Haegge Lee and tenor Nicky Spence with pianist Malcolm Martineau (pictured below). The cycle, by Jonathan Dove, featured in our first concert at Marchmont House and will be published by Peters Editions in versions for high and low voices. We encourage all Samling Artists and Academy Singers to consider adding this exciting new work to their repertoire.



The discipline with which we had to approach rehearsals has completely changed my views on how to work with others. The unwavering focus we all had on each other's work created an atmosphere of respect and completely channelled our energy and fun into our performing.' *Samling Academy Singer Boris Baros*



Samling Academy 'Sea Pictures'

Our Academy Singers took to the high seas for this year's summer concert project with tales of sailors, magical sea creatures and the simple pleasures of a day at the seaside.

The semi-staged production of song and poetry was directed by Samling Artists Miranda Wright and pianist Jo Ramadan, and lighting director Alex Edwards created maritime visual effects for the performances at Saltburn Arts and Sage Gateshead. During an extended rehearsal period, our Academy Singers were able to develop the skills they had previously worked on with our leaders, introducing movement, acting, props and spoken word to their performances.

'Samling Academy is a way into the world of professional singing and into opera which some people in high places seem to think is a space reserved for the wealthy and privileged. Anyone who heard these young people sing was privileged indeed.'

David Whetstone, Cultured North East



Photos: Mark Pinder



SAMLING ACADEMY

Friday 7 – Sunday 9 October
Friday 21 – Sunday 23 October

Thirty young singers, chosen by audition from across the North East, embark on a year of musical discovery and development supported by our leadership team:

Caroline Dowdle	Music Director
Patricia MacMahon	vocal teacher
Joan Rodgers	soprano
Miranda Wright	Samling Artist vocal teacher
Andri Björn Róbertsson	Samling Artist bass-baritone
James Cooney	actor
Mandy Demetriou	choreographer
Jonathan Ware	Samling Artist pianist
Jo Ramadan	Samling Artist pianist

With Samling Artist pianists: Michael Pandya, Ella O'Neill, Leo Nicholson and Ilan Kurtser



SAMLING ACADEMY IN CONCERT

Sunday 23 October, 3pm
Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Following six intensive days of workshops and masterclasses, we introduce our 2022/23 Samling Academy Singers in a joyful afternoon concert of song and opera, accompanied by a team of Samling Artist pianists.

Tickets £15 available from Sage Gateshead sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



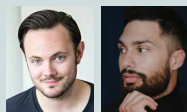
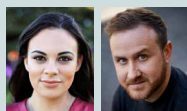
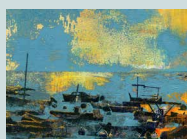
SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE 'SEA PICTURES'

Wednesday 9 November 2022, 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall, London

Madison Nonoa	soprano
Angharad Lyddon	mezzo-soprano
Nick Pritchard	tenor
Julien Van Mellaerts	baritone
Jonathan Ware	piano
Kunal Lahiry	piano

Based around song cycles with a maritime theme, the programme includes Sibelius's *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.

Tickets £40, £35, £30, £25, £16 (under 35s £5)
 Available from Wigmore Hall Box Office wigmore-hall.org.uk | 020 7935 2141



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 27 November –
Sunday 4 December 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'.

Samling In Masterclass

Saturday 3 December 2022

1.30 – 4.30pm
Marchmont House, Greenlaw,
Berwickshire, TD10 6YL

Introducing eight new Samling Artists in a public masterclass, held in the stunning music room at Marchmont House, led by mezzo-soprano Dame Sarah Connolly, conductor Paul-Emmanuel Thomas, Samling Artist pianist Joseph Middleton and actor James Garnon. Samling Artist Jo Ramadan supports the team as staff pianist.

Tickets: £18 plus £1.99 booking fee
 See samling.org.uk/events for details.
 Priority booking for Samling Friends is now open, with tickets on general sale from Friday 16 September.

A transfer from Berwick-upon-Tweed railway station can be booked with your ticket.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Samling Institute is a charity. We rely entirely on the generosity of private individuals, trusts and foundations and our own fundraising efforts. We do not receive any public funding.

Our supporters are at the heart of our creative community. Together they help make the Samling Institute experience unique. Please will you consider making a donation to support the lifechanging opportunities that we offer to young musicians.

Alternatively, why not join our Friends scheme? As a Friend you will receive excellent benefits including priority booking for masterclasses, opportunities to meet emerging and international stars, invitations to private Samling Institute recitals and exclusive news updates. Membership costs just £40 per year for an individual, or £60 per couple.

To make a donation or to join Samling Friends, please visit samling.org.uk/support or email enquiries@samling.org.uk



Samling Institute for Young Artists

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