



Samling Artists Jonathan Ware, Kunal Lahiry, Angharad Lyddon, Madison Nonoa, Julien Van Mellaerts and Nick Pritchard in the Green Room of Wigmore Hall following our Samling Showcase 'Sea Pictures' concert. Photo: Roger Way

Samling Futures

The future of song and opera depends on new generations of performers and audiences being inspired by the magical power of classical music. We're beginning 2023 by creating opportunities for just that through our Samling Futures workshops in schools across our region.

In a project that brings together our two core programmes, we will be sharing the joy of classical singing with students at state schools in Newcastle, Hexham, Berwickshire, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Durham. Samling Artists mezzo-soprano Katherine Aitken, bass-baritone Neil Balfour and pianist Ella O'Neill will lead Samling Academy Singers and students from the host schools in masterclasses and group singing activities.

Samling Futures will give a lively introduction to opera and an insight into the skills that are needed to give a compelling performance. It also highlights the opportunities that we offer to young singers at schools and universities from the Tweed to the Tees. We hope that some of those who hear

Neil, Katherine, Ella and our Academy Singers will be inspired to apply for our next round of Academy auditions which we'll be holding in March.

Our current Academy enjoyed six days of intensive coaching and performance in October (see highlights on p2). In February, they'll be extending their skills further in a new project, 'Scenes from Opera'. Over three days, they will work with Music Director Caroline Dowdle, actor James Garnon and Samling Artists Jo Ramadan and Miranda Wright to stage scenes from *Eugene Onegin*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

For the majority, this will be their first experience of performing opera and we hope to include some of the work in the Academy's summer concert tour in July.

The virtuous circle of success linking Samling Academy and the Samling Artist Programme was further strengthened in November when former Academy Singer bass Jamie Woollard returned to us as a Samling Artist.



Sir Mark Elder



Brindley Sherratt

We now look forward to our next Artist Programme week in March when we're delighted to welcome back conductor Sir Mark Elder to lead the week alongside bass Brindley Sherratt, who joins us for the first time and Samling Artist pianist Jonathan Ware. The week ends with a public masterclass on Saturday 11 March.

Tickets for our last public masterclass at Marchmont House sold out almost immediately, so please make sure you book early or join our Friends scheme for priority booking.

We return to Sage Gateshead on 3 February when six Samling Artists join Royal Northern Sinfonia and conductor Nicholas McGegan for a concert of baroque favourites and Caroline Shaw's exquisite *Is a Rose*.

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

WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'I have no qualms saying that Samling Academy has absolutely changed my life. Not only has Samling helped me develop my singing, it has also developed my confidence and self-belief.'
Academy Singer Levi Collin

SAMLING SHORTS

Jonathan Ware



Samling Artist pianist Jonathan Ware grew up in Texas and now lives in Berlin where he teaches at the Hochschule für Musik 'Hanns Eisler' and the Barenboim-Said Academy.

He is highly sought-after as a song accompanist and chamber musician and appears regularly in the world's leading recital venues and works with some of today's most exciting Lieder singers. His most recent recording in a rapidly expanding discography is 'This Be Her Verse' with Golda Schultz. Jonathan is a regular leader at Samling Academy and he returns in March as a leader on the Samling Artist Programme.

My earliest musical memory is...

Onstage at church singing with my family, who were missionaries in the US. I think I was four.

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

Suffjan Stevens' album 'Carrie and Lowell' and clips from the famous Glyndebourne Theodora on youtube. These works seem similar to me in the sense that they help you feel what you need to feel.

The book I'm currently reading is...

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger and Ethics in the Real World by Peter Singer.

The best thing about Berlin is...

NOT winter! For me the best thing is Berlin's space. The plan of the city is spacious, the parks are large and abundant, and the ethos of the city somehow lends me mental space. I feel more room to be open and creative here than anywhere else I've lived.

My three essential travel items are...

*1) Samsonite Neopulse carry-on suitcase
2) MacBook 3) hard-copy book.*

I love playing song because...

I love specificity. The text very strongly suggests the emotional content of the music. This gets interesting in Schumann and some other composers, where the music and the text often play antithetical roles, and it is each individual listener who synthesises – for me that is magic!

My favourite venue to perform in is...

Probably Wigmore Hall and Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin, both places where I feel at home and free.

My best Samling memory is...

I shouldn't say this – but it was a game involving After Eight mints and very chocolatey foreheads of the entire group of artists and leaders. (Those present will obviously remain top secret!) More seriously, that "special" evening at the end of a week of musicmaking is symbolic of the community and trust that develop at a Samling Artist Week. These qualities facilitate extraordinary, deep growth for the participating artists.

Photo: Kaupo Kikkas

Samling Academy



Photos: Mark Pinder



We welcomed new singers and leaders to Samling Academy in October. Actor James Cooney (who recently appeared in the Star Wars 'Andor' series) and Samling Artists bass-baritone Andri Björn Róbertsson and pianists Ilan Kurtser and Ella O'Neill joined the Academy leadership team for the first time.



We also celebrated a very special day – Patricia MacMahon, who has been with us since the very first Samling Artist Programme, spent her 80th birthday working with our Academy Singers, alongside Music Director Caroline Dowdle, soprano Joan Rodgers CBE, Samling Artists Miranda Wright, Jonathan Ware, Jo Ramadan, Michael Pandya and Leo Nicholson and movement coach Mandy Demetriou.

'I relished every second of my time at Samling Artist Programme. It really is the perfect balance of creative retreat and musical boot camp.'

Samling Artist Arthur Bruce

Samling Artist Programme

Our public masterclasses at the end of our Artist Programme residencies have a very special energy that comes from the deep trust that has built up over the course of an intensive week. Photographer Mark Pinder joined us at Marchmont House in November to bring you these pictures of the work that goes on behind the scenes of this lifechanging week.

The Artist Programme was led by soprano Joan Rodgers CBE, conductor Paul-Emmanuel Thomas, Samling Artist pianist Joseph Middleton and actor James Garnon. The Samling Artists who benefitted were sopranos Daniela Popescu and Emilia Utter Mangsbo, mezzo-soprano Annabel Kennedy, tenor Harry Grigg, baritone Arthur Bruce, bass Jamie Woollard and pianists Krystal Tunncliffe and Ilan Kurtser. Samling Artist Jo Ramadan provided support as staff pianist.



'Everything is done to ensure that these young artists switch fully from the status of "gifted students" to that of artists who are fully aware of what they are doing and of their choices.'

Paul-Emmanuel Thomas





SAMLING AT SAGE

Friday 3 February, 7.30pm

Sage Gateshead

Six Samling Artists join forces with Royal Northern Sinfonia and conductor Nicholas McGegan for a special concert in Sage One. Two exuberant baroque choral works frame Caroline Shaw's beautiful *Is a rose* for baroque orchestra and mezzo-soprano.

Antonio Vivaldi, Dixit Dominus RV 807

Caroline Shaw, *Is a rose*

Johann Sebastian Bach, Magnificat in D major BWV 243

With Samling Artists

Harriet Burns soprano

Lauren Lodge-Campbell soprano

Katherine Aitken mezzo-soprano

Michael Bell tenor

Harry Grigg tenor

Daniel Barrett baritone

Tickets £5 – £42

Available from Sage Gateshead

sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

Sunday 5 – Sunday 12 March

The core of Samling Institute's work, an intense week of coaching and musical discovery, led by world-class artists.



Samling In Masterclass

Saturday 11 March

1.30 – 4.30pm

Marchmont House, Greenlaw, Berwickshire, TD10 6YL

marchmonthouse.com



Introducing eight new Samling Artists in a public masterclass, held in the stunning music room at Marchmont House, led by conductor Sir Mark Elder, bass Brindley Sherratt and Samling Artist pianist Jonathan Ware.

Samling Artist Jo Ramadan supports the team as staff pianist.

The singers and pianists who have been invited to take part in this programme are:

Aleksandra Chernenko soprano

Jessica Cale soprano

Melissa Gregory mezzo-soprano

Emma Roberts mezzo-soprano

Jeremy Kleeman baritone

Edward Kim baritone

Emily Hoh piano

Ella O'Neill piano

Tickets

will be on sale at marchmonthouse.com from 1 February. We are pleased to offer return transport from Berwick-upon-Tweed station to Marchmont House which can be booked with your ticket.



SAMLING ACADEMY Summer Concerts

A semi-staged concert, including selected opera scenes.

Tuesday 11 July, 7.30pm

Saltburn Arts

Thursday 13 & Friday 14 July, 7.30pm

Sage Gateshead



SAMLING ACADEMY

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 October and

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 October

Thirty young singers aged 14-21 spend six days of intensive musical and artistic exploration, directed by Caroline Dowdle and an outstanding team of leaders and coaches.

Samling Academy in Concert

Sunday 22 October, 3pm

Sage Gateshead

Introducing our 2023/24 Samling Academy Singers in an afternoon concert of songs and arias, accompanied by Samling Artist pianists.



SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE

Tuesday 7 November, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Our annual concert at Wigmore Hall, with six Samling Artists. Further details to be announced in February.



MARCHMONT MASTERCLASSES

Tickets for Samling Artist Programme Masterclasses at Marchmont House are limited and demand is high.

If you'd like to take advantage of priority booking for our Masterclass on 11 March before general sales open on 1 February, why not join our Friends scheme. Membership is £40 per year or £60 for a couple. Our Friends also receive invitations to join emerging and international stars after Samling Institute events and acknowledgement in concert programmes. samling.org.uk/support/friends



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