



In Conversation



Music is, above all, about communication, speaking to its listeners across time and space.

This autumn we invite you to drop into conversations in concerts and masterclasses in the North East and in London, where you can see the whole range of our work, from the youngest Samling Academy Singers to our celebrated Samling Artists.

Samling Academy

We are looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of Academy Singers in October for six intensive days of masterclasses and workshops. Alongside our regular leadership team, directed by Caroline Dowdle, we welcome Samling Artist baritones Dominic Sedgwick and James Newby who will coach our Academy Singers. Both are enjoying busy careers – Dominic regularly sings at the Royal Opera House where he was previously a Jette Parker Artist and James has just released his second solo recital album with fellow Samling Artist pianist Joseph Middleton. See p2 to read more about James in our Samling Shorts interview.

Some of the new singers who will join Samling Academy in October auditioned after attending our Samling Futures visits

to state schools across the North East – a strong testimony to the effectiveness of this programme. However, we want to do more, and we are now finalising plans for an exciting expansion of our work in schools that will share our expertise in teaching classical singing with even more students.

In July, this year's Academy cohort ended their year with a semi-staged concert project, 'Conversation Pieces' (see p3), when we said goodbye to those who are moving on. These include singers who will be continuing their studies at undergraduate and postgraduate level at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, on full scholarships.

Samling Artist Programme

Six Samling Artists pick up the threads of conversation at our Wigmore Hall Showcase on Tuesday 7 November. Soprano Harriet Burns, mezzo-soprano Bethany Horak-Hallett, tenor Ted Black, baritone James Newby and pianists Ian Tindale and Krystal Tunnicliffe give a programme that includes songs by Gabriel Fauré, Johannes Brahms, Hugo Wolf, Jonathan Dove and Cheryl Frances-Hoad (see our website for the full programme). Reflecting our support for emerging artists, Bethany and Ted will be

Samling Academy's summer concert 'Conversation Pieces'
Photo: Mark Pinder

continuing the tradition of Samling Artists making their debut at Wigmore Hall, one of the world's most prestigious venues, as part of our annual showcase.

In November we welcome eight new Samling Artists to Marchmont House for an intensive residential week of musical discovery, led by soprano Yvonne Kenny AM, pianist Simon Lepper and actor Alex Hassell, supported by staff pianist Samling Artist Michael Pandya. We are delighted that Michael has just joined the BBC New Generation Artist Programme – see p2.

Our public masterclasses at Marchmont House are proving very popular. They offer you an intimate and informal chance to hear insights from world-renowned artists and see the stars of the future, and to meet them over tea and delicious home-made cakes served in the elegant public rooms. A shuttle-service will be available from Berwick-upon-Tweed station, connecting with trains from Newcastle and Edinburgh.

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

WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'Samling Academy has helped me find a pathway into opera which I would not have been able to find myself'

Samling Academy Singer Ava da Costa



Samling Academy 'Conversation Pieces'

Our theme of musical conversations began in July with our Samling Academy summer concerts at Saltburn Arts and Sage Gateshead, directed and accompanied by Samling Artists Miranda Wright and Leo Nicholson, with lighting by Alex Edwards.

The semi-staged production explored conversations between friends, lovers, families and even angels, in song, opera scenes and spoken word, with music ranging from Henry Purcell to Jonathan Dove.



'It's the confidence and maturity of the performers that always impresses, along with the beautiful voices. Both seeing and hearing, it's impossible to imagine that the skills they've learned through Academy membership won't stand them in good stead in whatever field they venture into.' David Whetstone, Cultured North East



Photos: Mark Pinder



'The Samling Artist Programme is a true balm for the creative soul. It offers a unique chance to take the time to explore and create art in a safe and supportive environment alongside wonderful colleagues and inspiring mentors' *Samling Artist Jessica Cale*

BBC New Generation Artists



Congratulations to Michael Pandya, who has been selected for the 2023/25 BBC New Generation Artists programme.

Michael is only the second collaborative pianist to have been selected for this prestigious scheme, following in the footsteps of fellow Samling Artist Kunal Lahiry in 2021/23 and of course many Samling Artist singers. The BBC says 'The New Generation Artists come from a wide field and provide a representative cross-section of the most exciting British and international young artists. They are truly the stars of tomorrow.'

You will be able to hear Michael making appearances on BBC Radio 3 throughout the year. He will also be joining us in November as staff pianist for the Samling Artist Programme.

Hugo Burge

We were terribly saddened to hear of the sudden death of Hugo Burge, director of Marchmont House on 10 May. Hugo was instrumental in bringing the Samling Artist Programme to Marchmont House and welcoming our Samling Artists and leaders into the artistic community that he created there.

'Hugo's infectious passion for creativity suffused everything he did and he often said how happy he was to hear the house filled with music and young people,' said Karon Wright, Samling Institute's Artistic and Executive director. 'He was a great man in every sense, and he truly made the world a better place.'

Marchmont House said in their statement 'Hugo was a visionary entrepreneur, a passionate champion of the arts and crafts world, and a very dear friend to many. His enthusiasm, intelligence, kindness and curiosity made him a beacon of light for people far and wide, and we know our community will join us in keeping his light burning bright.'



SAMLING SHORTS



Samling Artist baritone James Newby is a former BBC New Generation Artist and Rising Star of the Enlightenment. He was selected for the European Concert Hall Organisation Rising Star scheme, giving recitals throughout Europe in the 2022-23 season, including at Sage Gateshead. Opera roles include Eddy in Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek*, Guglielmo *Così fan tutte* and the title role in *Eugene Onegin* with Staatsoper Hannover. He has released two recital discs, both with Samling Artist pianist Joseph Middleton, most recently 'Fallen to Dust' in 2023.

My earliest musical memory is....

Falling asleep at the De Montfort Hall watching my brothers and sister singing in a concert there. I think it was Carmina Burana so in hindsight it's pretty impressive I got to sleep.

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

The band Giant Rooks – I'm just on my way to Leeds Festival so we've been listening to a lot of the bands playing this weekend in preparation!

My three essential travel items are...

iPad, power bank, plug adapter!!!

In my free time, I enjoy...

Playing and watching sport, cooking and playing the PS5 with my mates.

The opera character I'd most like to have a drink with is...

Ooh good question! It could be fun to have a beer with a god like Wotan, but I reckon Don Giovanni's servant Leporello would have plenty of stories to tell and could be good fun for a beer for sure!

My advice to anyone who wants to be a singer is...

I think decide what it is that's driving you and be true to that. People describe that as having a "why" which sounds a little empty and vague, but I think if you find the reason why you want to stand up and sing it can become more than just nice noises.

My favourite Samling memory is...

Working intensively with Roderick Williams at the Samling Artist Programme was such a huge privilege and lots of the learnings from that I think of often. I made some brilliant friends too and we all had a great time.



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.

Caroline Dowdle Music Director
Joan Rodgers CBE soprano
Scott Brooksbank actor
Mandy Demetriou movement coach

Samling Artists
Miranda Wright vocal teacher
James Newby baritone
Dominic Sedgwick baritone
Jo Ramadan pianist
Jonathan Ware pianist
Emily Hoh pianist
Leo Nicholson pianist
Ella O'Neill pianist
Krystal Tunnicliffe pianist



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.

Tickets £15

Available from Sage Gateshead
sagegateshead.com | 0191 443 4661



SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE 'Conversation Pieces'

**Tuesday 7 November, 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall, London**

Inspired by the world of eighteenth-century Conversation Piece portraits, six Samling Artists reveal in song what might have been said and what was left unsaid across time and space. For full programme details, please visit our website.

Harriet Burns soprano
Bethany Horak-Hallett mezzo-soprano
Ted Black tenor
James Newby baritone
Ian Tindale piano
Krystal Tunnicliffe piano

Tickets £40, £35, £30, £25, £16, £5
Available from Wigmore Hall
wigmore-hall.org.uk | 020 7935 2141

If you are under 35, you can buy tickets for just £5 by registering with Wigmore Hall's U35 ticket programme. See their website for more details.

Associate sponsor



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

**Sunday 26 November –
Sunday 3 December**

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

Samling in Masterclass Saturday 2 December

1.30 – 4.30pm

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

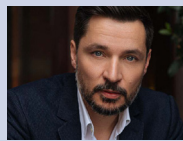
Your chance to get close to the music as eight young artists work on song and opera repertoire with soprano Yvonne Kenny AM, pianist Simon Lepper and actor Alex Hassell. This public masterclass takes place in the stunning music room at Marchmont House.

Samling Artists

Madeline Boreham soprano
Rachel McLean soprano
Beth Moxon mezzo-soprano
Steven van der Linden tenor
Sam Hird baritone
Redmond Sanders baritone
Francesca Lauri piano
JongSun Woo piano

Tickets £22

Available from marchmonthouse.com
General booking opens on Friday 22 September



SAMLING ARTIST PROGRAMME

**Sunday 25 February –
Sunday 3 March 2024**

Samling in Masterclass Saturday 2 March,

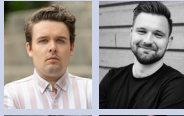
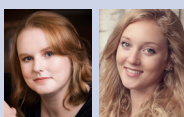
1.30 – 4.30pm

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

We welcome Austrian mezzo-soprano Angelika Kirchschrager back to Samling Institute, to lead the programme, alongside Samling Artist pianist James Baillieu and actor James Garnon.

Samling Artists

Hannah Crocker soprano
Charlotte Bowden soprano
Alexandra Achillea Pouta mezzo-soprano
Hugo Brady tenor
Felix Gygli baritone
Michael Lafferty-Smith baritone
Zany Denyer piano
Daniel Peter Silcock piano



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YOUNG ARTISTS