



Samling Singing Schools

This year we will be sharing our passion for singing with more young people than ever with the launch of our first 'Samling Singing School'.

This new project marks a significant expansion to our work in state secondary schools as we create a network of 'Samling Singing Schools' stretching from the Tweed to the Tees.

Each Singing School will receive a period of intensive tuition over six weeks, followed by regular support visits. Our leaders will work with choirs and small groups to help singers at all levels to develop a secure and healthy vocal technique. We will also provide specialist coaching and share best practice in singing teaching with school music staff, to ensure the legacy of the project.

Egglescliffe School in Stockton-on-Tees will be our first Singing School, with visits starting in February and we will be adding two more schools each year as the project rolls out across the region.

Matthew Haworth, Subject Leader for Music and Associate Assistant Headteacher at Egglescliffe said, 'Over the years I've seen students absolutely transformed by

their experiences at Samling Academy. We're thrilled that Samling Institute's expertise and their passion for excellence will now be available throughout our school and to our feeder primary and partner schools. I am absolutely convinced that this is going to be a very successful partnership.'

We are also continuing our regular Samling Futures programme, visiting state schools in Morpeth, Teesside, North Tyneside, Peterlee, Durham and Darlington.

The programme will be led by three Samling Artists who are enjoying thriving careers on the opera and concert stage. Armenian soprano Anush Hovhannisyan has performed lead Puccini and Verdi roles at the Royal Opera House. Tenor Nick Pritchard is making a name for himself as a performer of Bach and regularly appears as a soloist with The Monteverdi Choir. Pianist Ella O'Neill specialises in working with singers and has appeared at major concert halls and festivals across the UK.

Every year, Samling Futures inspires singers in the schools we visit to audition for Samling Academy. A quarter of our current Academy cohort have previously

Above: Joan Rodgers CBE at Samling Academy coaching 15 year-old soprano Ava, who successfully auditioned for the programme after a Samling Futures visit to her school. Photo: Mark Pinder

attended these sessions and are now inspiring the next generation by taking part in Samling Futures as ambassadors for Samling Academy and for classical singing. We look forward to hearing students who have attended this year's Samling Futures events at our next round of auditions, to be held in May.

Our next public event is our Samling Artist Programme Masterclass at Marchmont House on Saturday 2 March, with leaders including celebrated Scottish soprano Marie McLaughlin and Samling Artist James Baillieu.

We will reach a new milestone with this programme in March, which will take the number of Samling Artists to over 400 from no fewer than 45 different countries. Having received recommendations for our next round of applications, we will be holding auditions in April over three days in London and Glasgow.

We look forward to seeing you at Marchmont House on 2 March or at one of our other events this year.

Dates for your diary: please see p4.

WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

Thank you for creating the most supportive, positive and informative environment. Samling has been life changing for me and I know that this is the case for so many other singers too.'

Samling Academy Singer Lauren Bagge

Trustees

Samling Institute welcomes
Sir David Bell and
Rupert Tyler

As a registered charity, Samling Institute is governed by a board of Trustees, who bring a wide range of professional expertise to the organisation.

This year marks the retirement of Chairman Adrian Gifford and Bryan Sanderson CBE. 'We warmly thank both Adrian and Bryan for their advice and steadfast support over many years', said Artistic and Executive Director Karon Wright.

We are delighted to welcome Sir David Bell KCB DL who is joining as our new chair. Sir David is Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Sunderland University and was previously Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education. Alongside his extensive career in education, Sir David is a governor of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

We have also welcomed Rupert Tyler to the board who brings a wealth of experience in finance, higher education and the arts.



Samling Artists Bethany Horak-Hallett and Ted Black both made their Wigmore Hall debuts at our annual Samling Artist Showcase 'Conversation Pieces' on 7 November – just one of the ways in which we provide ongoing support to our Artists.

Pictured above: Ian Tindale (piano), Ted Black (tenor), Krystal Tunnicliffe (piano), Harriet Burns (soprano), Bethany Horak-Hallett (mezzo-soprano) and James Newby (baritone) at Wigmore Hall following the concert.

We are very grateful to Womble Bond Dickinson for once again sponsoring this event.



Top: Samling Academy Concert, The Glasshouse.
Below: James Newby and Dominic Sedgwick leading Samling Academy Masterclasses. Photos: Mark Pinder



Our 2023/24 Samling Academy cohort got together for the first time in October for six days of intensive masterclasses and workshops.

Samling Artist baritones Dominic Sedgwick and James Newby joined our vocal leadership team for the first time. Both are enjoying thriving careers on concert and opera stages across Europe and gave our Academy Singers coaching and advice from the perspective of busy working singers. The six days ended with a concert in The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, with solos, duets and ensembles and a show-stopping performance of the finale from *Oklahoma!*



'The Samling Artist Programme is an experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. The combination between art at the highest level, the companionship between the participants and the leaders and the beautiful surroundings made the week truly exceptional.' *Samling Artist Steven van der Linden*



In November, we welcomed eight new Samling Artists to our global family, following a residency at Marchmont House led by soprano Yvonne Kenny AM, pianist Simon Lepper and actor Alex Hassell.

The week ended with a public masterclass in which our audience heard insights into vocal technique, how pianists work with singers and the skills that actors use to bring text to life. Our new Samling Artists are sopranos Madeline Boreham and Rachel McLean, mezzo-soprano Beth Moxon, tenor Steven van der Linden, baritones Sam Hird and Redmond Sanders and pianists Francesca Lauri and JongSun Woo.





SAMLING IN MASTERCLASS

Saturday 2 March, 1.30 – 4.30pm
Marchmont House, Duns, Berwickshire,
TD10 6YL



Introducing eight new Samling Artists in an afternoon of musical discovery, with leaders including celebrated Scottish soprano Marie McLaughlin and Samling Artist pianist James Baillieu. Samling Artist Jo Ramadan supports the team as staff pianist.

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

Tickets £22 available from marchmonthouse.com
 A return bus service from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Marchmont will be available and can be booked with your ticket.



SAMLING ACADEMY SUMMER CONCERT

Friday 12 July
Sage Two, The Glasshouse International
Centre for Music

Our Academy Singers end their year with a semi-staged concert of song, opera and readings.



SAMLING ACADEMY

4 – 6 October and 18 – 20 October

Thirty young singers aged 14–21 who live or study in North East England, receive six days of intensive masterclasses and workshops, under the leadership of Caroline Dowdle of the Royal Opera House and an outstanding team of vocal leaders, pianists, an actor and a choreographer.



SAMLING ACADEMY IN CONCERT

Sunday 20 October
The Glasshouse International Centre for Music

Our Academy Singers, accompanied by an impressive team of Samling Artist pianists, take to the stage for an afternoon concert of song and opera.



SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE

Thursday 7 November

Wigmore Hall, London

Musing in Solitude

In a frenetic world where there never seems time 'to stop and stare', this year's Samling Artist Showcase celebrates the art of contemplation and what it means to be alive. Drawing inspiration from the poetry of the Romantics to the present day, the programme will reflect 'On Man, On Nature and On Human Life'.

New Chair of Samling Friends



Photo: Mark Pinder

Samling Friends are at the heart of our creative community. Together they help make the Samling experience unique and we have been very fortunate to have Doreen Middlemast as chair of our Friends for the past five years.

Doreen has given many hours of time to Samling, helping on the Friends desk at concerts and passionately spreading the word about our work at our masterclasses and concerts. She is now handing over the role to Ailsa da Costa who has first-hand experience of Samling Institute's work, as her daughter Ava has been in our Academy since 2021.

Ailsa shares Doreen's enthusiasm for all things Samling and we are looking forward to working with her and Doreen to develop our Friends programme over the coming year.

To find out more or to join Samling Friends please visit samling.org.uk/support/friends



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