



## New Season



A scene from Samling Academy 'Lost and Found'  
The Glasshouse Photo: Mark Pinder

### Two of our most recent initiatives – 'Samling Singing Schools' and 'Samling and Song' – kickstart a busy autumn programme.

St Leonard's School in Durham will become our next Singing School followed by King Edward VI Morpeth, Northumberland in January. Soloists, choirs and staff at each school will receive tailored coaching following our core principles of healthy, natural singing, attention to text and learning through doing. We are also looking forward to welcoming students from Egglescliffe who successfully auditioned for Samling Academy after our first Singing School workshops there.

In September, mezzo-soprano Shakira Tsindos and pianist Lana Bode will be the second duo to take up a Samling and Song residency at Marchmont Estate. This funded residency gives Samling Artist duos time and space to develop innovative art song projects. Shakira and Lana's project, 'Love Indeed' is a multimedia exploration of modern relationships.

Samling Artist sopranos Charlotte Bowden and Jessica Cale will be joining Royal Northern Sinfonia in Sage One for Felix Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on 14 September. This concert opens the

2024/25 classical season at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music and will see both Charlotte and Jessica making their debuts at The Glasshouse.

Our core programmes continue later in the Autumn. In October, our 2024/25 cohort of Samling Academy Singers drawn from schools and universities in North East England will get together for six intensive days of masterclasses and workshops. They'll be sharing their work in an afternoon concert at The Glasshouse on 20 October. Some of the singers on stage will be with us for the first time and others are returning – you may have seen some of them in our semi-staged summer concert 'Lost and Found' and you can read more about this on p3.

Italian soprano Barbara Frittoli brings operatic star power to our Samling Artist Programme in November, joining pianist Caroline Dowdle and actor James Garnon who offer their ever-popular mix of expertise and playfulness. Our eight new Samling Artists will be spending an intensive week working with Barbara, Caroline and James and we hope you can join them all for an afternoon of discovery at our public Masterclass on Saturday 30 November at Marchmont House. See p2 for a Spotlight profile on Barbara Frittoli.

### Samling Artist Showcase

We make our regular visit to Wigmore Hall on Thursday 7 November for our Samling Artist Showcase.

Soprano Jessica Cale, mezzo-soprano Beth Moxon, tenor Dafydd Jones, bass Jamie Woollard and pianist JongSun Woo all became Samling Artists within the last two years. Pianist Jonathan Ware was a programme leader in 2023 and completes the line-up.

This year's programme, on the theme 'Musing in Solitude' includes Benjamin Britten's *Les illuminations*; Welsh songs by Dilys Elwyn Edwards and romances by Sergei Rachmaninov. We're also delighted that for the first time, our showcase will include music written by a Samling Artist when Beth Moxon sings 'Constellations' by Yshani Perinpanayagam.

**We hope to see you in Gateshead, London or at Marchmont House.**

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

## WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'Being a Samling Artist means being a member of an ever growing, supportive family of musicians who seek to make music with honesty and integrity, with passion and joy at the heart of everything they do. I am very proud to be part of this special Samling family.' *Samling Artist Jessica Cale*

### SPOTLIGHT ON

## Barbara Frittoli



**Barbara Frittoli enjoys a major international career and is considered one of the greatest lyrico-spinto sopranos of her generation.**

She was born in Milan and grew up close to the city's Giuseppe Verdi Conservatoire where she began taking piano lessons as a child. During the conservatoire's compulsory choral classes her teachers spotted her potential and after some persuasion she switched to singing, studying with Giovanna Canetti (with whom she still works) and graduating with the highest honours.

One of her earliest professional roles was *Ines Il trovatore* in Florence alongside Luciano Pavarotti and conducted by Zubin Mehta, and Verdi has been at the heart of her repertoire ever since alongside Mozart. Her major roles include Contessa *Le nozze di Figaro*, Donna Anna and Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni*, Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte*, Desdemona *Otello* and Alice *Falstaff*.

Barbara has probably appeared in every major opera house in the world. In her debut season at the Metropolitan Opera she sang Micaëla *Carmen* and Mimì *La bohème*. She was Alice in *Falstaff* in the first production when the Royal Opera House opened after its refurbishment and she sang Liù with Zubin Mehta in the famous outdoor performance of 'Turandot in the Forbidden City'.

She has worked extensively with Riccardo Muti and was the soprano soloist on his Grammy-award winning recording of Verdi's Requiem. The many other conductors she has worked with include Claudio Abbado, Lorin Maazel, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davis, Charles Mackerras, Sir Antonio Pappano, Semyon Bychkov and Riccardo Chailly. She received the Echo Klassik Female Singer of the Year award in 2001 for her recording of Mozart arias.

Barbara teaches at the Georg Solti Accademia and on the Verbier Festival Atelier Lyrique. Her first visit to Samling was cancelled during the pandemic, so we're delighted that we're finally able to welcome her to our Artist Programme in November 2024.

## Samling and Song News

Mezzo-soprano Shakira Tsindos and pianist Lana Bode will be taking up the second of our Samling and Song residencies at Marchmont Estate in September.

Meanwhile, the first duo to benefit from this scheme, Kieran Rayner and Gamal Khamis, will give the premiere of their project 'What if' at the Royal Over-Seas League on Monday 11 November, followed by a second performance at living history museum Hellens Manor in Hertfordshire on 26 March.

Gamal said 'With its long-term mentoring and advice, Samling and Song has been transformative, not only to "What if?" but also to how we work as creatives. Our time at Marchmont with James Garnon helped us discover how historical context and framing could add definition to our project and we were able to develop the relationship between the singer and pianist in a way that was totally new for us.'

We'll be opening the next round of applications for Samling and Song later in the year, so if you're a Samling Artist from the last ten years with imaginative ideas for presenting art-song, keep an eye on our website for more details.



## New Board Member George Evans-Thomas

We have recently welcomed George Evans-Thomas to our Board of Trustees. George was a member of Samling Academy during his time studying modern languages at Durham University and he is now working as a management consultant.

George has a passion and understanding of opera and is committed to sharing this with other young people. He worked at Teatro dell'Opera di Roma during his university year abroad and has also worked as an intern at Royal Opera House and Staatsoper Berlin. He said, 'Being part of Samling Academy was a real high point of my time at university – a mix of encouragement, high standards and fun, and a brilliant pathway for aspiring young singers'.

Karon Wright, Artistic and Executive Director added, 'I'm so pleased to welcome George back to Samling Institute and I know that, as someone who has experienced our work firsthand, he will make a valuable addition to our team'.





'Thank you all for the support and for providing such incredible opportunities.  
I will treasure the memories from these projects for life!'

*Samling Academy Singer Megan Moffitt*



## Samling Academy 'Lost and Found'

**Our Samling Academy summer production this year was on the theme of 'Lost and Found' with music and poetry that covered everything from Barbarina's pin to a missing French horn!**

The production was directed by Samling Artists Miranda Wright and Leo Nicholson and the extended rehearsal period included a day on spoken word and stagecraft with actor and director Federay Holmes.

The Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, Mrs Sue Snowdon was in the large and enthusiastic audience at The Glasshouse and she said, *'What a performance, a truly unforgettable evening. It was a privilege and huge pleasure to join you last night, to observe such a range of ages and talent. It was an uplifting occasion, impossible not to be impressed by the incredible talents of your students.'*







## 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 with an outstanding team of leaders:

**Caroline Dowdle** Music Director  
**Joan Rodgers CBE** soprano  
**James Garnon** actor  
**Mandy Demetriou** movement coach

Samling Artists

**Miranda Wright** vocal teacher  
**Katherine Aitken** mezzo-soprano  
**James Baillieu** pianist  
**Jo Ramadan** pianist  
**Ian Tindale** pianist  
**Jonathan Ware** pianist  
**Marianna Abrahamyan** pianist  
**Francesca Lauri** pianist  
**Ella O'Neill** pianist  
**Daniel Peter Silcock** pianist  
**JongSun Woo** pianist



## Samling Academy in Concert

**Sunday 20 October, 3pm**  
**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.

**Tickets** £15, available from The Glasshouse  
theglasshouseicm.org | 0191 443 4661



## SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE

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

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'.

With Samling Artists:

**Jessica Cale** soprano  
**Beth Moxon** mezzo-soprano  
**Dafydd Jones** tenor  
**Jamie Woollard** bass  
**Jonathan Ware** piano  
**JongSun Woo** piano

**Tickets** £40 £36 £32 £26 £18  
wigmorehall.com | 020 7935 2141



## SAMLING IN MASTERCLASS

**Saturday 30 November**

**1.30 – 4.30pm**

**Marchmont House, Duns,  
Berwickshire, TD10 6YL**

Italian soprano Barbara Frittoli leads the Samling Artist Programme for the first time, joining pianist Caroline Dowdle and actor James Garnon in an afternoon of musical discovery with eight new Samling Artists.

**Beatriz Volante** soprano  
**Rebecca Leggett** mezzo-soprano  
**Ellen Pearson** mezzo-soprano  
**Sebastian Hill** tenor  
**Hector Bloggs** baritone  
**Michael Ronan** bass-baritone  
**Pierre-Nicolas Columbat** piano  
**Gracie Francis** piano

With staff pianist Samling Artist Jo Ramadan

**Tickets** £25 available from  
marchmonthouse.com

A return bus transfer will run from Berwick-upon-Tweed station and can be booked with your ticket.



## SAMLING IN MASTERCLASS

**Saturday 8 March 2025**

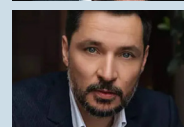
**1.30 – 4.30pm**

**Marchmont House**

With leaders including the renowned British baritone Christopher Purves and pianist Simon Lepper and eight new Samling Artists:

**Jessica Lawley** soprano  
**Angelina Dorlin-Barlow** mezzo-soprano  
**Lea Shaw** mezzo-soprano  
**Matthias Daehling** counter-tenor  
**Charles Cunliffe** baritone  
**Joshua McCullough** bass  
**George Ireland** piano  
**Harry Rylance** piano

With staff pianist Samling Artist Ella O'Neill



## Samling Institute for Young Artists

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