

# Another Samling First

Seven outstanding young artists have been selected to take part in Samling's first Masterclass of the season. The great German baritone Olaf Bär and David Syrus, Head of Music at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden will be taking the lead in their first visit to Samling.

Olaf Bär performs in the world's leading concert halls and at many international festivals, including Salzburg. Over twenty-five years the lyric baritone has made award-winning recordings of the major Lieder repertoire exclusively for EMI Classics, including works by Brahms, Wolf, Schubert and Schumann. Our Scholars will consider themselves particularly fortunate to work on song repertoire with one of the world's greatest recitalists.

A Masterclass session held live onstage at The Sage Gateshead at 2pm on Wednesday 13 October will bring Lieder to life for Scholars and audiences alike, with fascinating insights into the art and techniques of song.

And there will be plenty of opera, too. Olaf has performed at La Scala, Milan, Aix-en-Provence Festival, Frankfurt, Vienna State Opera, Netherlands Opera and Glyndebourne, as well as in principal roles at the Semper Oper in his home city of Dresden and the Royal Opera House, where his fellow Masterclass Leader, David Syrus, is Head of Music.



Photographs: Matthias Creutziger

In almost four decades at Covent Garden, David has conducted the operas of Mozart, Wagner, Janáček, Strauss, Britten and Tippett. As a leading opera teacher he has mentored many artists for performances on the ROH main stage and beyond and his advice will be invaluable to our seven Scholars. The team of Masterclass mentors will be completed with Samling's own vocal consultant Paul Farrington and distinguished pianists Caroline Dowdle and Christopher Glynn.

To complete the week, all will come together in a signature Samling Concert at The Sage Gateshead from 7pm on Saturday 16 October. With Olaf Bär performing in the North East for the first time, we can look forward to a rich mixture of opera and song.

**For details of how to buy tickets, please see the back page.**

This season's Masterclass at The Sage Gateshead features: (Above) David Syrus, Head of Music at the Royal Opera House; the great German baritone Olaf Bär; and seven outstanding young artists – (above left) sopranos Ruby Hughes and Kathrin Neubert, mezzo-soprano Justina Gringyte, tenor Samuel Boden, baritones Andrew Finden and Derek Welton and pianist James Baillieu.



Photographs: Mark Pinder

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"Masterclass is an engrossing and wonderfully enjoyable experience" John Haggith. "Samling a

## Spotlight on Auditions

Samling's Masterclass programme is internationally recognised and we are often asked how we select the young singers and pianists who are given the coveted places each year.

"They come to us on a recommendation basis only," said Director Karon Wright. "All the principal music colleges and conservatoires here, and some abroad, recommend young artists they think would most benefit from what we have to offer and then we invite them to audition for us."

"Every year Samling holds at least four days of auditions in London and Glasgow and our panel hears well over 100 young artists each time. The panel always consists of leading artists, teachers and pianists. This summer Yvonne Kenny, Sir Thomas Allen, Caroline Dowdle and Patricia MacMahon took part along with me. The auditions were kindly hosted by the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Each singer is asked to perform a song and an aria of their choice. Accompanists are also auditioned to become Samling Scholars, playing for the singers as they audition."

"The process is rigorous and selection is based on the agreed decision of the panel members, following intense reflection and discussions and, as a limited number of places are on offer, only the very best in our opinion are chosen to proceed" said Karon.

"It may be a tough and, for some even a nerve-wracking process but students and young professional singers must become accustomed to this process in a profession that requires years of study and training to make it onto any stage, let alone the top international concert halls and opera houses."

"We try to make the audition experience as positive as possible for all those who come to sing and play for us, and are immensely grateful to all who support our work year on year."



Photographs: Ben Ealovega

## Welcoming Roger Vignoles

One of the world's most distinguished piano accompanists, Roger Vignoles is joining us for the first time when he leads November's Masterclass alongside Sir Thomas Allen, Isobel Buchanan, Paul Farrington and Caroline Dowdle.

Roger finds the masterclass situation "the most stimulating way to explore music you already know quite well, as working outside the piece can bring new ideas and it is fascinating to witness "pennies dropping" for young artists," he said.

Roger believes that the masterclass format where young artists and their teachers work intensively together is "the best way of running any course of study". This perhaps partly explains why, alongside an acclaimed international career of performances and recordings with the world's leading singers over four decades, he is an excellent teacher, giving masterclasses worldwide, leading courses for the Britten-Pears Young Artists' Programme, as Prince Consort Professor of Accompaniment at the Royal College of Music and running an international workshop for singers and pianists in Austria each summer.

All the lead artists will join Scholars Nina Lejderman, Gwawr Edwards, Kitty Whately, Leslie Davis, John Pumphrey, Philip Smith, Anna Cardona and William Vann to give public performances at The Sage Gateshead - firstly in an open Masterclass on Wednesday 10 November – an entertaining and interesting opportunity for the public and experienced and emerging artists to share knowledge and ideas about opera, singing technique, performance and artistry. Then, on Saturday 13 November, all the artists will combine to give a celebratory finale Concert of opera arias, ensemble and song, showcasing singing at its very best.

Roger is particularly looking forward to working with Sir Thomas Allen again, telling us they "go right back to College days"; November's Masterclass promises to be a most inspiring week.

For details of how to buy tickets, please see the back page.

allows me to offer my support for the highest quality music-making" Doreen Middlemast.



## Celebrating Ferrier Success

**This April South African baritone Njabulo Madlala won first prize in Britain's most prestigious singing competition, the Kathleen Ferrier Awards. Acclaimed by The Times for riveting "every listener in the hall", he performed Schumann's dramatic ballad Belsazar and Thula Mama, a traditional South African folk song in the final round.**

Friends of Samling will probably recognise the 28-year old, a Samling Scholar who completed a Masterclass week four years ago. He has also contributed to our work with young people through a Choral Day in Carlisle, an Outreach Project in the Tyne Valley and a Concert with hundreds of schoolchildren in Hall One at The Sage Gateshead in 2006.

The Kathleen Ferrier Awards were established in 1956 to commemorate one of Britain's best-loved singers, providing the winning singer sufficient funds to cover the cost of a year's study and living expenses. Njabulo joins an elite list of singers who have won the generous prize and worldwide recognition that come with the award. Small wonder, then, that in a BBC interview shortly after, he said: "Winning the 2010 Kathleen Ferrier Award is the most exciting thing that could ever have happened in my life."

Since Samling began fourteen years ago a remarkable nine first prize winners at the Ferrier Awards have participated in our Masterclass Programme, including last year's winner soprano Sarah-Jane Brandon. Another bright young South African star, she will perform in this year's Samling Showcase at Wigmore Hall, one of the world's greatest concert halls and home of the Ferrier Awards (please see Diary Dates for more information). Six second prizes and two song prizes have also been awarded to our vocal Scholars and our first two pianist Scholars won the accompanists' prize in 2006 and 2007 respectively. In the past Samling Masterclass leaders have also picked up five winners' titles – Della Jones, Felicity Palmer, Yvonne Kenny, Joan Rodgers and Amanda Roocroft – as well as the accompanists' prize awarded to Christopher Glynn.

In joining this group of distinguished artists, Njabulo is certainly heading in the right direction. His recent engagements include Don Fernando *Fidelio* for Opera Holland Park, Don Giulio *L'ajo nell'imbarazzo* at the Barga International Festival and Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* for the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Jurowski.

## Fantastic Garden Party

The sun shone brilliantly for our annual Party in the Garden, once again generously hosted by Roger and Eileen McKechnie on 20 June.

This annual event is a vital fundraising activity for Samling and this year we raised some £11,000 – and it was a great fun day out for all who joined us.

The day simply wouldn't be possible without the hard work and support we have been so fortunate to receive over fourteen years from the friends, family and colleagues who help organise and run the day, as well as preparing and serving all the home-cooked food. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all those who kindly support our work time and time again. Thanks also to all the guests who came along and we hope to see you all next year for an even bigger and brighter day.



**SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK**

Each year Samling selects outstanding young professional singers and pianists to take part in week-long programmes of study, where they are coached intensively in opera and Lieder by some of the world's finest artists.

During Masterclass Samling opens its doors to the general public who are invited to observe the 'masters' and their students – Samling Scholars – at work. The week ends with a gala concert, given on the last evening – the standard is exceptional.

**Sunday 10 – Sunday 17 October**

Led by Olaf Bär, David Syrus and Paul Farrington, with pianists Caroline Dowdle, Christopher Glynn and six specially selected young singers and a pianist:

Ruby Hughes	Soprano
Kathrin Neubert	Soprano
Justina Gringyte	Mezzo-soprano
Samuel Boden	Tenor
Andrew Finden	Baritone
Derek Welton	Baritone
James Baillieu	Piano

**Samling Masterclass****Wednesday 13 October, 2-5pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Tickets £10

**Samling Concert****Saturday 16 October, 7pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Tickets A/B: £20.50 C: £14.00 D/E: £7.00

Tickets available from The Sage Gateshead  
Ticket Office 0191 443 4661 or  
[www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

**SAMLING MASTERCLASS WEEK****Sunday 7 – Sunday 14 November**

Led by Sir Thomas Allen, Isobel Buchanan and Paul Farrington with pianists Caroline Dowdle, Roger Vignoles and six specially selected young singers and two pianists:

Gwawr Edwards	Soprano
Nina Lejderman	Soprano
Leslie Davis	Mezzo-soprano
Kitty Whately	Mezzo-soprano
John Pumphrey	Tenor
Philip Smith	Baritone
Anna Cardona	Piano
William Vann	Piano

**Samling Masterclass****Wednesday 10 November, 2-5 pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Tickets £10

**Samling Concert****Saturday 13 November, 7pm**

Hall Two, The Sage Gateshead  
Tickets A/B: £20.50 C: £14.00 D/E: £7.00

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# Wigmore Showcase

**Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau lead this year's annual concert at Wigmore Hall showcasing an exceptional line-up of young artists.**

Samling Scholars taking part include soprano Sarah-Jane Brandon, winner of the 2009 Kathleen Ferrier Award and mezzo-soprano Cecelia Hall, set to make her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2010/11 in Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* with Susan Graham and Plácido Domingo.

They will be joined by tenor James Geer whose year has seen him perform at Glyndebourne, in St Petersburg, Malta and Barcelona; baritone Philip Smith with operatic work including Longborough Festival Opera, Opera by Definition, Manchester Camerata and Glyndebourne on Tour; and pianist Daniel Wnukowski who inaugurated the Chopin year in Poznań, Poland with Metropolitan Opera soprano Aleksandra Kurzak earlier this year.

All the artists will perform a lively and dynamic programme including songs from Debussy, Liszt, Ravel and Schubert, with opera arias and ensembles by Handel, Mozart and Strauss. Full details of the programme are on our website.

If you would like to join us for a three course post-concert dinner with the artists, a limited number of tickets are available at £125 each. Please contact Samling using our details given below for tickets or any further information. Early booking is recommended.

**BOOKING DETAILS FOR WIGMORE SHOWCASE****Wigmore Hall, London****Friday 10 December, 7.30pm**

Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau lead this annual concert in London, with performances by five Samling Scholars:

Sarah-Jane Brandon	Soprano
Cecelia Hall	Mezzo-soprano
James Geer	Tenor
Philip Smith	Baritone
Daniel Wnukowski	Piano

Tickets £26, £22, £16 and £12, available from Wigmore Hall Box Office: 020 7935 2141 or online: [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk).

**JOIN US FOR DINNER WITH THE ARTISTS**

There are a number of tickets which include a three-course dinner, wine and coffee with the artists after the concert in the Bechstein Room. These are priced £125 and are available only from Samling on 01434 602885.

**If you would like to join the Samling Friends' Scheme and support our work with young artists of all ages or find out more please call 01434 602885 or email Claire Murphy at [enquiries@samling.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@samling.org.uk)**

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