



Photo: Mark Pinder

New Year Honour

We began 2025 with the exciting news that our founding Artistic and Executive Director Karon Wright was awarded an MBE for services to music in the King's New Year Honours list.

Samling Artist mezzo-soprano Ellen Pearson with Barbara Frittoli, Samling Artist Programme at Marchmont House.

For nearly thirty years, Karon has worked tirelessly and generously to support young artists. She has changed the lives of thousands of young people and we are delighted to see that her dedication and care has been recognised in this way. Read more on page 2.

Our commitment to supporting music in state schools has always been an essential part of our work and this continues in January with Samling Futures workshops in secondary schools across Newcastle, Northumbria and Sunderland and the addition of King Edward VI School in Morpeth to our Singing Schools project.

We visited King Edward VI School for an introductory session just before Christmas and we are now looking forward to working with them over the coming term, coaching their choir, soloists and staff. We'll be sharing our expertise in areas including developing a healthy, natural

technique, singing in other languages and how to select appropriate repertoire for young voices.

We hope to see young people from all the schools we've visited at our next round of Samling Academy auditions. These will be held in Gateshead, Durham and Newcastle from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 March and applications are open now. If you know a young person with a talent for classical singing who lives or studies in the North East or who is considering coming to university in the region, we'd love to hear from them. For more details, please visit our website or get in touch with us.

This year we welcome three new leaders to the Samling Artist Programme. Baritone Christopher Purves enjoys a versatile career, excelling in repertoire from Bach and Handel to heavyweight roles in Verdi and Wagner – he joins us in March alongside pianist Simon Lepper.

From this year, we will hold the second residency in the summer. This August it will be led for the first time by the acclaimed French soprano Véronique Gens and her regular duo partner pianist Susan Manoff. We are looking forward to being at Marchmont in gentler weather, knowing that our audience can travel without the risk of storms and snow and return in daylight. We are currently selecting the artists who will take part in this programme, with live auditions taking place in London and Glasgow later this month, following initial rounds of recommendation and video audition.

Our public masterclasses at the end of each Samling Artist Programme residency are a great chance to see behind the scenes of classical music and discover how musicians bridge the gap between technical excellence and true artistry.

See p4 for dates and details of this year's masterclasses and other events.

WHY SAMLING INSTITUTE?

'Samling Academy is such an incredible programme, there's really nothing like it and it is one of the most valuable things I've taken part in.'

Arielle Loewinger

Karon Wright MBE

Karon Wright, the founding Executive and Artistic Director of Samling Institute has been recognised in the King's New Year Honours with an MBE.

On receiving the award, Karon said 'I was really happy to receive this honour for services to music. Music and poetry and the way that they combine with the power of the human voice in song have informed my life and it is such a privilege to help so many young people to find their own voices and to share this with audiences. I am immensely proud of all the artists who have passed through our programmes and to see their achievements in opera houses, concert halls and recordings across the world is an honour in itself.'

Samling Institute is a registered charity that receives no public funding and does not have an endowment. Every year, Karon has tirelessly raised the funds needed to run Samling's programme and ensuring that we have never had to charge tuition fees to the many hundreds of young people who benefit from our programmes.

'Karon has been the driving force behind Samling Institute's many achievements for nearly 30 years. Her tireless work has changed individual lives and it has also made a significant impact on the world of opera and classical singing. This award is richly deserved.'

*Sir David Bell
Chair of Samling Institute*

Photo: Mark Pinder



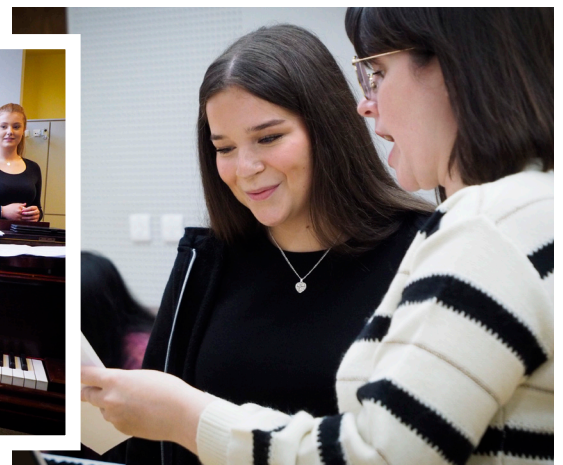
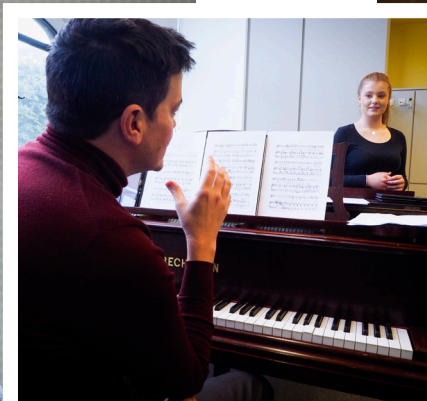
Samling Academy

We welcomed our 2024/25 cohort of young singers to Samling Academy for six intensive days of masterclasses and workshops, ending with a sold-out concert at The Glasshouse. Under the direction of Caroline Dowdle and an outstanding leadership team that included twelve Samling Artists, the singers worked on song and opera repertoire in multiple languages. Our Academy Singers will be developing their skills further over the coming months working towards an opera project with performances in July.

'Working with these young singers was truly inspiring.'

Samling Artist Julien Van Mellaerts

Photos: Mark Pinder



'What an opportunity it was to escape normal life and spend a week going further in all aspects of performance...
Samling has been an artistic reboot and I'm looking forward to figuring out the next steps.'
Samling Artist Sebastian Hill



Photos: Mark Pinder



Samling Artist Programme

Superstar Italian soprano Barbara Frittoli joined us for the first time to lead November's Samling Artist Programme, alongside Samling regulars pianist Caroline Dowdle and actor James Garnon. They worked with eight young artists – sopranos Andrea Manuel and Beatriz Volante, mezzo-soprano Ellen Pearson, tenors Sebastian Hill and Euan McDonald, baritone Hector Bloggs and pianists Pierre-Nicolas Colombat and Gracie Francis. The week ended with a packed-out public masterclass, in which our artists and leaders shared their thoughts on song and opera by Mozart, Liszt, Howells, Handel, Lalo and Rossini. Our photographer, Mark Pinder captured some of the work that goes on behind the scenes of this lifechanging programme.



Photos: Mark Pinder



Samling Showcase at Wigmore Hall

Our annual showcase gives our recent Samling Artists a valuable opportunity to appear in one of the world's great concert halls.

Our 2024 programme 'Musing in Solitude' presented music by Benjamin Britten, Sergei Rachmaninov, Dilys Elwyn Edwards and Hugo Wolf. We were also delighted to include in the programme 'Constellations' by Samling Artist Yshani Perinpanayagam and the world premiere of 'Onwards' by Lewis Murphy, both written for mezzo-soprano Beth Moxon and setting texts by Laura Attridge.

Pictured: Samling Artists tenor Dafydd Jones, soprano Jessica Cale, mezzo-soprano Beth Moxon, bass Jamie Woollard and pianists Jonathan Ware and Jong Sun Woo



EVENTS



SAMLING IN MASTERCLASS
Saturday 8 March, 1.30 – 4.30pm
Marchmont House, Duns,
Berwickshire, TD10 6YL



With leaders including the renowned British baritone Christopher Purves and pianist Simon Lepper.

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 ACADEMY OPERA
Dido and Aeneas
Friday 18 and Saturday 19 July

Samling Academy Opera returns with Henry Purcell's only full opera. *Dido and Aeneas* is based on an episode from the Aeneid and recounts the tragic events that ensue when fate interferes with human love.

This fully staged and costumed production will be accompanied by Dunedin Consort on period instruments, directed by John Butt.



SAMLING IN MASTERCLASS
Saturday 2 August, 1.30 – 4.30pm
Marchmont House, Duns,
Berwickshire, TD10 6YL



Celebrated French soprano Véronique Gens and her regular duo partner pianist Susan Manoff coach six singers and two pianists in an afternoon of musical discovery. With staff pianist Samling Artist Ian Tindale.



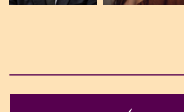
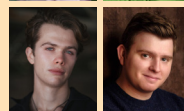
SAMLING ACADEMY
10 – 12 October and 24 – 26 October

Thirty young singers selected by audition from schools and universities across the North East begin their year with six days of masterclasses and workshops under the direction of Caroline Dowdle and led by an impressive team of teachers, singers, pianists, an actor and a movement coach.



Samling Academy In Concert
Sunday 26 October
Sage Two, The Glasshouse International
Centre for Music.

An afternoon of song and opera introducing our 2025/26 Samling Academy Singers, accompanied by Samling Artist pianists.



SAMLING ARTIST SHOWCASE
'Between Heaven and Earth'
Tuesday 4 November, 7.30pm
Wigmore Hall, London

With Samling Artists
Sarah Gilford soprano
Ellen Pearson mezzo-soprano
Hugo Brady tenor
Sam Hird baritone
Jonathan Ware piano
Francesca Lauri piano

More details to follow



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