

## **Johan Bridger**

“For his intense personal expression, brilliant technical mastery and overpowering stage presence.” Thus read the judges’ citation for the percussionist and marimba artist Johan Bridger as he received the 2004 Swedish Soloist’s Prize. In the same year he managed to win 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Belgium International Marimba Duo Competition and make a grandiose debut at both the Wigmore Hall in London and PASIC in the US. Since then Bridger has given numerous critically praised performances, both nationwide and internationally; throughout Europe, in Russia, Japan and the US.

Bridger has performed at major venues, such as La Biennale di Venezia, Mariinsky Theatre and Carnegie Hall and collaborated with internationally acclaimed artists including Thomas Søndergård, Mats Rondin, Eva Ollikainen, Hans Pålsson, Per Tengstrand, Hugo Ticciati, Urban Agnas and Håkan Hardenberger. He has also made several appearances as a soloist on Swedish Radio’s classical music station and on Swedish Television.

Born in Sweden 1976, Johan Bridger received his education from Malmö Academy of Music and Northwestern University in Chicago. His principal teachers were Lennart Gruvstedt, Leigh Howard Stevens and Professor Michael Burritt. As a true marimba virtuoso, Bridger embraces – and masters – an extensive repertoire, from J.S. Bach to contemporary and new music and is privileged to premier works by leading composers, such as Alejandro Vinao, Pius Cheung, Marcin Blazewitz, Daniel Börtz, Staffan Storm and Tobias Broström.

In addition to his own ceaseless exploration of the marimba and the overall percussionist’s world, Bridger seeks to inspire others by giving both lectures and master classes, in Sweden and abroad. He also teaches at The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, The Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Odense, The Malmö Academy of Music and Sundsgarden School of Music.