



MICHAEL BRIDGE

Biographies

Updated November 2022. Written by Denise Ball.

- 150 words
- 275 words
- 500 words
- Sample Concert Intro Remarks

Michael Bridge – Short Bio (150 words)

Michael Bridge is a musical maverick. He's a virtuoso performer on both the acoustic accordion and its 21st Century cousin, the digital accordion. His concerts capture the energy and panache of stadium rock with the elegance and discipline of chamber music.

He's won a slew of competitions in Canada and abroad and was named one of CBC's 30 under 30 classical musicians. He received his doctorate in accordion performance from the University of Toronto and is a Rebanks Fellow at the Glenn Gould School. He gives over 100 concerts a year as a soloist and as a member of *Bridge & Wolak* and *Ladom Ensemble*. He's in high demand for masterclasses around the world.

Dr. Bridge embraces a musical aesthetic that is alternatively irreverent, deadly serious, meticulously prepared and completely in-the-moment. He's at home with classical, contemporary, jazz and folk music and has premiered 53 new works.

Ultimately, he aims to make your world more bearable, beautiful and human—even if only for the length of a concert.

www.MichaelBridge.ca

IG: @michael_accordionist

FB: www.facebook.com/MichaelBridgeMusic

YT: www.youtube.com/@MichaelBridge



Michael Bridge – Medium Bio (275 words)

Michael Bridge is a 21st-century musical maverick—toppling popular expectations of what it is to be a professional accordionist.

He's a virtuoso performer on both the acoustic accordion and its 21st Century cousin, the digital accordion—an extraordinary piece of technological wizardry that imitates the sound of just about any instrument you can imagine. His concerts capture the energy and panache of stadium rock with the elegance and discipline of chamber music.

It all began when Bridge was five and growing up in Calgary. His mom bought him a \$5 accordion at a garage sale and Michael was hooked.

Since then he's won a slew of competitions in Canada and abroad and was named one of CBC's 30 under 30 classical musicians. He gives over 100 concerts a year as a soloist and as a member of both *Bridge & Wolak* and *Ladom Ensemble*. He offers lectures and masterclasses around the world. He received his doctorate in accordion performance from the University of Toronto with Joseph Macerollo (the first Canadian to do so) and is a Rebanks Fellow at the Glenn Gould School.

Bridge & Wolak also give back through an online Music Mentorship Program. After performing hundreds of concerts in schools, they are determined to build more meaningful relationships with musically inclined teens.

Dr. Bridge embraces a musical aesthetic that is alternatively irreverent, deadly serious, meticulously prepared and completely in-the-moment. He's at home with classical, jazz and folk music. He's premiered 53 new works. If pushed, he'll say he likes Baroque music best because of its unforgiving demand for clarity of intent and execution.

Ultimately, he aims to make your world more bearable, beautiful and human—even if only for the length of a concert.

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Michael Bridge - Full Bio (500 words)

Michael Bridge is a 21st-century musical maverick—toppling popular expectations of what it is to be a professional accordionist.

He's a virtuoso performer—a superstar on both acoustic accordion, and its 21st-century cousin, the digital accordion. He's won a slew of competitions in Canada and abroad and offers lectures and masterclasses around the world.

He embraces a musical esthetic that is alternatively irreverent, deadly serious, meticulously prepared and completely in-the-moment. He's at home with jazz, folk and classical music. He's premiered 53 new works. If pushed, he'll say he likes Baroque music best because of its unforgiving demand for clarity of intent and execution.

He began playing when he was 5 and growing up in Calgary. His mom bought an accordion at a garage sale for \$5. A family friend started teaching him to play by ear. Formal lessons began at 7.

He spent weekends at prairie accordion competitions, playing polkas and learning to dance.


At 15 he attended the World Accordion Championships as a spectator. For the first time he heard classical accordion and fell in love with it. He started all over again, mastering a completely different kind of accordion and a whole new technique.

He was soon offering a hundred community concerts a year. As a soloist with orchestra or string quartet, with his two ensembles, he continues that pace, playing in concert halls all over the world. He received his doctorate in accordion performance from the University of Toronto with Joseph Macerollo (the first Canadian to do so) and is a Rebanks Fellow at the Glenn Gould School.

Bridge (along with his clarinet partner Kornel Wolak) performs on a digital accordion—essentially a computer housed in a conventional accordion case. This extraordinary piece of technological wizardry imitates the sound of just about any instrument you can imagine. He can single-handedly shake the rafters with a convincing “1812 Overture”, canons and bells included. Bridge & Wolak concerts capture the energy and panache of stadium rock with the discipline and finesse of chamber music. Think Bach on steroids.

He's also mastered the more familiar acoustic accordion, a soulful, highly expressive instrument, essential to the music of Toronto-based Lodom Ensemble. Along with cello, piano and percussion, the Lodom quartet creates a sophisticated blend of everything from traditional Persian melodies, to Bach and Piazzolla, to Radiohead.

Bridge also gives back through an online Music Mentorship Program. After performing hundreds of concerts in schools—usually in the less-than-ideal setting of a packed gymnasium with a tight time limit—Bridge & Wolak determined to build more meaningful relationships with musically inclined teens. With help from composers, tech people and producers, they introduce emerging artists to the wide world of professional music.



When he's not being a musical renaissance man, you'll find Bridge salsa dancing, cooking vegan dishes and talking to smart people. He loves to travel and he's trying to live a more minimal life—abandoning anything that isn't essential to his life and work.

But what really matters for Michael Bridge is making your world more bearable, beautiful and human—even if only for the length of a concert.

He is grateful for the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Sylva Gelber Foundation, and the Women's Musical Club of Toronto.

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Sample Concert Introductory Remarks:

Welcome, everyone, to the concert.

The man you're about to meet is the virtuoso accordion player Michael Bridge. He lives in Toronto and travels the world.

Over the next 90 minutes or so, he promises to make your world more bearable, more beautiful and more human – even if only for the length of our concert.

***** Either:

And he'll do it on the **acoustic accordion.**

It's an instrument most of us think of as part of a polka band.

But that's not what you'll be hearing tonight. Michael can play any style and genre of music on the accordion so you'll be hearing everything from 18th century Baroque Music to 20th century swing.

Without further ado, please welcome MICHAEL BRIDGE!

***** OR:

And he'll do it on the **digital accordion.**

A digital accordion is a computer disguised as an accordion. Michael can mimic every sound in the orchestra - and then some. You'll hear him sounding like a piano, or drums, or an oboe - or a 20-piece dance band. It's pretty incredible, and it's all 100% live.

Without further ado, please welcome MICHAEL BRIDGE!