

**FULL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR  
WORLD PREMIERE OF NINA RAINE'S  
BACH & SONS  
AS REHEARSALS BEGIN**

Joining **Simon Russell Beale** who will play Johann Sebastian Bach in the world premiere of **Nina Raine's *Bach & Sons*** are **Samuel Blenkin** as Carl, **Pandora Colin** as Maria Barbara, **Ruth Lass** as Katharina, **Dougie McMeekin** as Wilhelm, **Racheal Ofori** as Anna Magdalena and **Pravesh Rana** as Frederick the Great.

Directed by **Nicholas Hytner**, performances at The Bridge are from 23 June – 9 September 2021 with opening night on 29 June 2021. The associate director is **James Cousins**, with set designs by **Vicki Mortimer**, costumes designed by **Khadija Raza**, lighting by **Jon Clark**, sound by **Gareth Fry** and music supervised by **George Fenton**.

*Johann Sebastian Bach, irascible and turbulent, writes music of sensuous delight for his aristocratic patrons, and gives voice to his deep religious faith in music for the church. He's touchy, he's fabulously rude, he has high standards (he stabs a bassoonist for playing badly) and he's constantly in trouble with his employers. Music is the family business - both his wives and all his children are musicians. His eldest son, Wilhelm, is brilliant, chaotic and paralysed by his father's genius. Tense, industrious Carl is less talented than his father but more successful. As the years pass, their gripping family drama provokes furious arguments about love, God and above all music. What is it for - to give pleasure, like a cup of coffee in the sun, or to reveal the divine order that gives life its meaning? Nina Raine's play is an anthem to the art that draws us together and sings of our common humanity.*

Simon Russell Beale made his Bridge debut last year in *A Christmas Carol*, also directed by Nicholas Hytner whom he has previously collaborated with on *The Alchemist*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Major Barbara*, *Collaborators*, *London Assurance* and *Timon of Athens* all at the National Theatre. In 2019 he was seen in *The Lehman Trilogy* at the National Theatre and in the West End and later reprised the role in 2020 on Broadway. As well as being the recipient of multiple theatre awards, in 2003 he was made a CBE for his services to the Arts and in 2019 he was made a Knight Bachelor.

Samuel Blenkin's theatre credits include *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* for the National Theatre and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* at the Palace Theatre. His film credits include *The French Dispatch* and *Misbehaviour*. On television his credits include *Atlanta*, *Dracula*, *Pennyworth*, *Peaky Blinders*, *Grantchester* and *Doctors*.

Pandora Colin's theatre credits include *8 Hotels* for Chichester Festival Theatre, *Our Town* for Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Julius Caesar* for Sheffield Theatres, *The Vote* for the Donmar Warehouse and *After the Dance*, *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor*, *Women of Troy* and *Some Trace of Her* all for the National Theatre. On film her credits include *Earwig and The Witch*, *Aftermath* and *The Lady in the Van*. On television her credits include *Master of None*, *Chernobyl*, *Delicious*, *Penny Dreadful* and *Toast of London*.

Ruth Lass' theatre credits include *Crooked Dances* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, *Equus* for Theatre Royal Stratford East and *Great Apes* for the Arcola Theatre. She also played Ariel in *The Tempest* at the Barbican and Gertrude in *Hamlet* at Riverside Studios. Her film credits include

/more...

*Disobedience, The Book of Gabrielle, Indian Summer/ Alive and Kicking and Mad Cows.* Her television credits include *Strike: Lethal White, Silent Witness, Houdini and Doyle* and *White Teeth*.

Dougie McMeekin's theatre credits include *Dirty Crusty* at the Yard Theatre, *The Night Before Christmas* for Southward Playhouse, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Young Vic and *Wendy & Peter* for the Royal Shakespeare Company. His film credits include *Nasty Women, The Hustle* and *The Call Up*. On television his credits include *The Beast Must Die, Harlots, Chernobyl, Traitors* and *The Crown*.

Writer and performer Racheal Ofori's theatre credits include *Rare Earth Mettle* for the Royal Court Theatre, *Three Sisters* for the National Theatre for which she received an Ian Charleson special commendation, *Pygmalion* for Headlong and West Yorkshire Playhouse, *Romeo and Juliet* at the Garrick and *The Merchant of Venice* at Shakespeare's Globe. Her one-woman shows are *Portrait*, which played to sell-out audiences at the Edinburgh Fringe prior to a UK Tour and *So Many Reasons* which ran at Soho Theatre. Her television credits include *Sliced, In The Long Run, Treadstone* and *Entreprice*. Ofori's film credits include *Artemis Fowl, Guns Akimbo* and *Ready Player One*.

Pravesh Rana is making his professional stage debut in *Bach & Sons* having graduated from LAMDA. His television credits include *The Serpent* and *Foundation*.

Nina Raine's other plays include *Stories, Consent, Tiger Country, Rabbit* and *Tribes* as well as an adaptation of *The Drunks* by the Durnenkov Brothers. She was shortlisted for the 2004 Verity Bargate Award and awarded the 2006 Evening Standard and Critics' Circle Awards for Most Promising Playwright for her debut play *Rabbit*. *Tribes* won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Foreign Play and the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best New Play and has been performed in eighteen different countries. Raine was nominated for a Susan Blackburn Smith Award for *Stories* and *Consent*.

Nicholas Hytner co-founded London Theatre Company with Nick Starr. For the Bridge Theatre he has directed *Young Marx, Julius Caesar, Allelujah!, Alys, Always, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Two Ladies, Beat the Devil, The Shrine, Bed Among the Lentils* and *A Christmas Carol*. Previously he was Director of the National Theatre from 2003 to 2015. His book *Balancing Acts* is published by Jonathan Cape.

## **IMAGES**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qgtzj56i2h83dy8/AACuPjvfGEEZ6cEGwjVoqWHBa?dl=0>

## **BRIDGE THEATRE FAQ's RE COVID-19**

[www.bridgetheatre.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/](http://www.bridgetheatre.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/)

Performances of *Bach & Sons* have gone on sale with socially distanced seating; when government guidelines allow, these performances will move to full seating capacity. All customers will be notified of any necessary changes to their bookings.

## **LISTINGS INFORMATION**

Address: Bridge Theatre, 3 Potters Fields Park, London, SE1 2SG

Box Office: 0333 320 0051 or [boxoffice@bridgetheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@bridgetheatre.co.uk)

Access: 0333 320 0051 or [access@bridgetheatre.co.uk](mailto:access@bridgetheatre.co.uk)

Website: [www.bridgetheatre.co.uk](http://www.bridgetheatre.co.uk)

Twitter: @\_bridgetheatre

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Facebook: [facebook.com/bridgetheatrelondon](https://www.facebook.com/bridgetheatrelondon)

For further press information Janine Shalom, Premier, [Janine.shalom@premiercomms.com](mailto:Janine.shalom@premiercomms.com) or [ella.taibel@premiercomms.com](mailto:ella.taibel@premiercomms.com)