

SPECIAL FEATURE on MATTHEW SHARP

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For me Matthew is one of the most exciting professional solo cellists on the world scene today - you'll see why when you read about him; a man of so many different talents and a simply gorgeous cello sound!

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Matthew is internationally recognised as both a compelling classical artist and a fearless pioneer. His adventures in and through music and across disciplines are 'unrivalled' and 'unprecedented', balancing provenance and vision in a unique and potent way.

He studied cello with Boris Pergamenschikow in Cologne, voice with Ulla Blom in Stockholm and English at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was taken to Jacqueline du Pré when he was 12, Galina Vishnewskaya when he was 18 and studied chamber music with the Amadeus Quartet. He performs at major venues and festivals worldwide as solo cellist, baritone, actor and director.

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Matthew has appeared as solo cellist performer with the RPO, LPO, RLPO, CBSO, Orchestra of Opera North, SCO, EUCO, ESO, NCO, Manchester Camerata, Orchestra of the Swan, Orchestra X, Arensky Chamber Orchestra, and Ural Philharmonic.

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In opera, he has sung principal roles for Opera North, ROH, Almeida Opera and Mahogany Opera Group, amongst many others.

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In theatre, he has performed principal roles at the Young Vic and National Theatre Studio, collaborated with Kneehigh, Complicité and, most recently, with legendary illustrator and film-maker, Dave McKean.

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He has recorded for Sony, EMI, Decca, Naxos, Somm, NMC, Avie and Whirlwind and appeared in recital as both cellist and singer at Wigmore Hall, SBC and Salle Gaveau.

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As a director (music, theatre and opera), he has written, conceived and directed over forty multi-disciplinary shows for, amongst others, Opera North, BBC, Breakthru Films, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and West Green Opera. His own music and theatre works have toured to major festivals in Europe, India, China and the US, including Glastonbury, Latitude, Wilderness, Mumbai LiveLit, Philadelphia Live Arts and NCPA, Beijing. In addition, he has given over sixty world premieres by composers from all walks of music – including the title role in Sir John Tavener’s *The Fool* and Errollyn Wallen’s *Cello Concerto* – at festivals from Sydney to Toronto, Sao Paulo to Delhi.

He is the agent of world-leading research in the performing arts and interdisciplinary practice, his pioneering multi-disciplinary performance work the focus of research in books and international publications.

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Matthew teaches at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and has been a guest lecturer at GSMD, RWCMD, RCSSD, Trinity Laban, Juilliard, Dartington College and Leeds, Lincoln, Portsmouth, Sheffield universities and University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He devised and delivered the inaugural, televised event for InHarmony, Leeds.

Matthew is thrilled to play on a copy of the ex-Pergamenschikow *Montagnana* by Robin Aitchison.

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The principal Conductor of the English Symphony Orchestra, Kenneth Woods, says of the collaboration his orchestra has with Matthew: “*Matthew’s skill set is, as far as I know, unique, even unprecedented in terms the breadth of what he can do on stage. What unites all his work, whether playing, narrating, singing or directing, is a deeply felt passion to engage with audiences, to make them feel like active and valued participants in the concert experience.*”

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And the press simply bows to him! -

‘*Matthew Sharp, virtuoso of the arts.*’ The Times

‘*Extraordinary cellist, virile baritone, compelling actor – Matthew Sharp’s astonishingly comprehensive versatility.*’ The Daily Telegraph

‘*Matthew Sharp’s singing raised the evening to a pitch of spiritual feverishness rarely encountered in either concert hall or theatre.*’ Independent on Sunday

‘*Matthew Sharp’s performance in the central role displays consummate theatrical invention...a commanding vocal and stage presence.*’ The Guardian

‘*a triumphant Wigmore recital*’ The Strad

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Finally, read more of his thoughts from the article shared onto my web page:
INSP01 - in English

Meet the Artist - MATTHEW SHARP (Cello)

https://johnstone-music.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/INSP01-MATTHEW_SHARP-Interview-Meet_the_Artist.pdf

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Thanks Matthew, and please keep on exciting us!!



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‘documenting the cello’

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