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# Matthew Jones

I'm a professional musician, recording artist and published songwriter living in Cardigan, on the West Coast of Wales. I started my music career teaching privately before accepting a full time position inside an SEN School in Surrey – where I worked for 10 years – teaching songwriting, band development, music production, guitar & ukulele, film & animation and using music as a therapy for students with a wide range of learning needs.

Since then I've signed a publishing and record deal, recorded an album and 2 EP's, played all around the world, including tours with Rag 'n' Bone Man, and became Jo Whiley's 'Favourite Thing' with a song I wrote about my family called 'Stars'. I've also written with many other recording artists, producers and students of all ages. I moved to West Wales in 2020 to write, teach and live more simply.

## Professional Experience

### SONGWRITER & RECORDING / PERFORMING ARTIST

Catherine Songs, Nettwerk Music Group & Kobalt Music Group

March 2017 - Present

I signed a record deal in 2017 with songwriter/producer Jamie Scott (Rag 'n' Bone Man, Justin Bieber, Ed Sheeran) and have an album and two EP's out under my artist name 'River Matthews'. Since then I've toured around the world, performed on radio and live TV and written original songs for myself and other recording artists.

I recently set up onegoodthingaboutmusic.com to represent the teaching arm of my career, in particular the craft of songwriting. Since starting this venture I've held songwriting workshops locally including inside The Lighthouse Project in Cardigan, as well as Band Development and Private Tuition both locally and remotely. I also enjoy collaborating with other musicians and creatives.

### TEACHER & MUSIC THERAPIST

The Park School, Surrey, UK

September 2010 - March 2020

I worked for 10 years as a full time Music Teacher & Therapist inside an SEN school in Surrey. The primary focus of my work was the building of student self-esteem, confidence and life skills, using music as a gateway.

Within this role I developed many school bands - performing original songs and covers, writing and recording inside the studio, and live performances in front of the school and the local community. Alongside band development I also taught individual and group songwriting, music production, guitar & ukulele, and filming & animation.

### MUSIC TUTOR

In Person & Remote

June 2008 - Present

I started teaching music back in 2008, and I still teach private lessons in songwriting, band development, and guitar & ukulele - locally and remotely - with young people and adults of all abilities and musical interests. I've always loved teaching and developing sessions aimed at individual tastes and abilities. My approach is non traditional and is centred around inclusivity, self expression, and fun! I also hold a current DBS certificate.

Attached to this CV is some recent feedback from local songwriting and band development sessions and workshops.

## References

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BETH POWER

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## Recent Feedback

### **BAND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

Beth Power, Parent

*"Our teenage son and his band were getting quite confident doing covers but they wanted to branch out with their own song, not knowing where to start. I reached out to Matthew - I am so pleased that I did!"*

*Not only have they created a brilliant song but most importantly the skills for the future to progress independently.*

*The workshop far exceeded our expectations: not only were they given musical and lyrical support, but Matthew's personality brought out the best in each and every member of the group. A fantastic, calm teacher - he has a lovely way with people. Matthew really noticed each member of the group as an individual, picked up on what they needed and left everyone feeling more capable and confident as a result."*

### **SONGWRITING WORKSHOP**

The Lighthouse Project, Cardigan

*"Matthew came to do a song-writing workshop with a group of 8 to 15 year olds at our youth group. He managed to engage people of all different musical backgrounds and tastes and the day ended with the co-creation of a couple of really inspired pieces of music that everyone felt so proud of. It was a brilliant workshop."*

### **SONGWRITING LESSONS**

Naomi Glass, Parent

*"Matthew makes learning music so much fun and playful and he is really sensitive to the different learning needs and styles of each child, making each lesson really unique. Matthew is also a great communicator which makes organising lessons and getting feedback super easy!"*

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