

*"... his virtuoso control at all dynamic levels just has to be heard to be believed..."*

International Record Review

*"I wish more people would think about music the way Matthew Barley does"*

The Times (London)

*"Stunning cello - words cannot do justice to the strength and effect of his playing"*

Capital Times (New Zealand)

*"This was brilliant playing, fully in baroque style, announcing to all that here was a cellist to reckon with."*

Dominion Post (New Zealand)

*"One of the most talented cellists I've ever heard"*

Leonard Bernstein

## **Matthew Barley - Biography**

Cello playing is at the centre of Matthew Barley's career, while his musical world has virtually no geographical, social or stylistic boundaries.

Matthew Barley's passions include improvisation, education, multi-genre music-making, electronics, and pioneering community programmes. He is also a world-renowned cellist, who has performed in over 50 countries, including concertos with the BBC Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, London Sinfonietta, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Royal Scottish National, Swedish Chamber, Vienna Radio Symphony, Kremerata Baltica, Czech Philharmonic, Melbourne and New Zealand Symphonies and the Metropole Jazz Orchestra. With Viktoria Mullova he recently premiered and toured *At Swim-Two-Birds*, a double concerto by Pascal Dusapin, with the Netherlands Radio, RAI Torino, Seattle Symphony, London Philharmonic, Paris National and Leipzig Gewandhaus orchestras.

Matthew's collaborations include Matthias Goerne, the Labèque Sisters, Avi Avital, Manu Delago, Martin Frost, Shai Wosner, Calefax, Thomas Larcher, Amjad Ali Khan, Julian Joseph, Nitin Sawhney, and Jon Lord (Deep Purple), appearing in venues ranging from Ronnie Scott's and the WOMAD festivals to London's Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Vienna's Konzerthaus, Sydney Opera House and Zürich's Tonhalle. In the 2000s Matthew's new music group, *Between The Notes*, undertook over 60 creative community projects with young people and orchestral players around the world.

Matthew has given premieres by Pascal Dusapin, Roxana Panufnik, James MacMillan, Thomas Larcher, Detlev Glanert, Dai Fujikura and recently a concerto by Misha Mullov-Abbado with a cello part that is more-than-half improvised at the London Jazz Festival for the BBC.

Since 2003 he has recorded for Onyx and Black Box and is now a Signum Classics artist. In 2019 Tavener's The Protecting Veil with the Riga Sinfonietta was described by the Gramophone as "A magnificent performance...Even if you have other recordings of The Protecting Veil, I recommend this utterly beautiful and originally framed version unreservedly." His latest recording, Electric ('A sonic marvel' The Strad) is an anthology of works for cello and electronics.

The next project, Light Stories, is a new programme for cello, electronics and visuals from Yeast Culture with much of the music written by Matthew - UK touring starts at the Southbank Centre in September 2024 along with the release of a new album. He is also launching a new charity to run workshops helping university students with their mental health using creative music and theatre. In 2023 he set up the Barley Arts Foundation to implement unusual concerts and projects and to help young people improve mental health using creativity.

[www.matthewbarley.com](http://www.matthewbarley.com)

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