

## **MATTHEW WILKINSON - GUITAR**

Matthew Wilkinson is a diverse guitarist who has been playing since the age of 8. From private beginnings and school performances, he went on to become a member and leader of the National Youth Guitar Ensemble, performing with artists such as Antonio De Innocentis, the Eden-Stell guitar duo, John Williams and Victoria Walker. Matthew won the Christine Flint Bursary in 2005 to further his musical education, and later gained a major entrance award before starting his studies at the prestigious RNCM in Manchester in 2006.

Currently undertaking his fourth year of undergraduate studies, Matthew performs regularly both as a soloist and chamber musician. His playing has taken him to venues such as the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, the Bolivar Hall in London, the Holmfirth Arts Festival and many more. Matthew plays both classical and electric guitar and has performed in many exciting ensembles, including recitals of Steven Mackey's *Measures of Turbulence*, Callum Dewar's *Concertina for Amplified Guitar and Guitar Ensemble*, and Louis Andriessen's *Nine Symphonies of Beethoven for Orchestra and Ice Cream Bell*.

Matthew's playing takes a diverse route, and has seen him collaborate with a Dixieland group on the banjo, Mozart Arias on the Mandolin, and in a Jazz Manouche Style on the acoustic guitar. He also performs frequently on the electric guitar for musicals and in contemporary classical ensembles.

As a soloist, Matthew performs around Manchester and the UK and has given many full-length recitals for various occasions. He has taken part in master classes with Julian Byzantine and Ricardo Iznaola, and is currently being taught by legendary guitarists Craig Ogden and Gordon Crosskey. Matthew recently performed for Julian Bream and further to that, was given a Postgraduate Performance Award, administered by the Musicians Benevolent Fund in order to continue his studies at the RNCM.