

Matt McChlery – Biography



Worship leader, Matt McChlery was born in Zimbabwe. From an early age, it was apparent that he had natural musical ability. Shortly after his 13th birthday, at a 'Penguins In Africa' Christian rock concert, he committed his life to Jesus.

Following this, Matt started getting involved in his school youth group. With a little guidance, Matt taught himself how to play guitar and started facilitating worship at the age of 15. It was at Rhodes University, South Africa, where Matt's songwriting really started showing signs of maturity and were increasingly used to bless his local church. Since then God has been directing his life towards musical ministry.

Songwriting runs in the family as Matt's great, great, great grandfather, Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould wrote the classic hymn 'Onward Christian Soldiers'. Matt believes that some of the anointing he carries is part of a generational blessing as well as an individual mantle and calling upon his own life.

After recording his first single in 2002, Matt has won various awards for his music and blog and racking up airplay on hundreds of radio stations around the world as well as appearing on the telly a few times.

In early 2016 Matt was diagnosed with cancer (non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma) so took some time out of performing and recording. However he continued to write his blog and chronicled his journey whilst battling the disease which has since become a source of insight and inspiration for thousands of people around the world. Later that year, shortly after finding out that he is now in full remission, his blog achieved 'Finalist' position in the Premier Digital Awards in the 'Most Inspiring Leadership Blog' category.

Matt lives with his wife Verity and their two children in the UK, teaching at a primary school. At the same time he is Director of Music and Worship Leader at his local church, The King's Church, Wisbech. He is also Chairperson of Wisbech Churches Together and has recently started being represented by 'Ministry of Music', a management and bookings agency. Despite being very busy, Matt still continues to write worship songs that he hopes will be a blessing to the body of Christ throughout the world.

In brief:

- Appeared on South African cable television (TBN South Africa), as well as on local and national radio in both South Africa and Zimbabwe.



- Lead worship at nation-wide youth camps in Zimbabwe.
- In 2002, Matt released an independent single 'Jewel of Africa' which reached the top 10 on the Zimbabwean chart.
- In early 2006, Matt released the worship album 'Fly' which has been played on over 400 radio stations around the world and reached number 13 on the NCM Euro Charts.
- Matt McChlery has also been involved in the 'Released' compilation album project, run by dB studios in Lincoln. 'All Around' appears on the album 'Released 5' and reached the Semi-finals in the Rock/Indie category of the 2010 UK Songwriting Contest. 'Ten Thousand, Thousand' is on 'Released 7' and in 2009 'The Thousand, Thousand' reached number 1 on the NCM UK Chart.
- 2011 Matt performed on the UKCMC television show that was broadcast on UCB TV in the UK, Dove TV in America and a variety of other syndicated channels around the world later that year.
- This prompted Matt to get back into the studio and he recorded an acoustic worship 5-track EP with members from his local church band called 'A Deeper Longing' (2011).
- Matt has also written and published a book called 'Songcraft: Exploring the Art of Songwriting' (2008). It combines theory, biblical insights and practical tips in an easy-to-read style.
- Matt also played at KingsStock Music Festival in 2013 and is due to lead worship at the Sunday morning gathering at KingsStock 2014.
- 2014 he released a studio album centred around the theme of salvation called 'All Things New' which has been produced by long-time friend Ryan Baker-Barnes.
- 2016 Matt was diagnosed with cancer so took time out of recording and performing, however his blog continued and chronicled his battle with the disease.
- 2016 Matt was awarded 'Finalist' position in the Premier Digital Awards that is held nationally in the UK for his blog in the 'Most Inspiring Leadership Blog' category.

For more information and detail please visit
mattmcchery.com

Free chord charts and lyrics are available for all of Matt McChlery's songs at
mattmcchlery.com

