



Matt Richards

Guitarist

Solo Guitar

[Audio tracks](#) / [Live performance videos](#)

Matt Richards' Power Trio Jazz Project

[Audio tracks](#) / [Live performance videos](#)

For booking inquiries and additional information:

646-395-0068 / bookings@MattRichardsMusic.net

Thank you very much!

<http://MattRichardsMusic.net>

Matt Richards Guitarist

"A musician who's always going to be pushing the boundaries."

Acoustic magazine



Photo: Val Chilicki

Guitarist **Matt Richards** is a contemporary musical artist who effortlessly bridges musical styles while maintaining his own identity. Many listeners are familiar with his genre-stretching acoustic solo and duo work; others associate him with straight-ahead jazz or energized fusion, employing both standard electric and fretless guitars. Though both identities may seem distinct, they ultimately belong quite comfortably to the same musician.

In a solo acoustic setting Matt draws upon an array of stylistic influences, wrapping them in the spontaneity associated with jazz. His **Power Trio Jazz Project** is electric and adventuresome, with an energized take on standard jazz and original compositions. His work in duos ranges from piano-like acoustic pairings with vocals or flute to straight-ahead traditional jazz in a well-established guitar duo.

"Matt's rendition of Manha de Carnaval is a masterpiece. I've never heard better."

Larry Coryell

It was in the culturally fertile cross-currents of the late 60s that Matt's musical pathway opened in a mix of folk, rock and psychedelic music. With the advent of 1970s' electronic-laden jazz-rock Matt was inspired to develop and apply the technically advanced skill that defined fusion. As his talent matured, Matt was drawn into straight-ahead jazz, classical and world music, and began concentrating on acoustic guitar.

Matt has performed as a solo artist at a broad range of venues and festivals, both regionally and nationally. He has been a frequent duet partner with guitarists **Larry Coryell**, **Emiliano Pardo** and **Tony Hughes**, vocalist **JayKatz**, flutist **Katherine Barbato** and bassist **Bill Zola** and has worked with a stylistically diverse range of artists, including **Joey DeFrancesco**, **Mike Clark**, **Kenwood Dennard**, **Essra Mohawk**, **Marlon Simon**, **Elio Villafranca**, and **Bobby Zankel**. Matt has played in support for **Dave Mason**, **Paco Pena**, **Peppino D'Agostino** and **Richie Havens** and has been featured on the televised programs **Miles of Music** and **Puerto Rican Panorama** and in the film **Smoke And Mirrors**.

Matt Richards' group has the highly energized, interactive approach to music that essentially defines modern jazz.

Events magazine

Throughout his career Matt has been actively involved in music education. He is currently a member of the faculty at **Ambler Music Academy**. He served as Head of Faculty at the **FrankfordStyle School for Creative Arts** and as Music Program Director for **Zanaras Music Stores**. With his continued commitment to music education Matt frequently conducts workshops and master classes in conjunction with his performances.

Matt has endorsements with **Godin Guitars** and **John Pearse Strings** and accessories.

“Matt's performance provides musical hopefuls with inspiration and rewards a casual listener with wonderful music.”

Out & About

Matt explored acoustic jazz and world music on his 2008 album ***One In Mind*** and followed with a straight-ahead jazz release, ***Trio***, in 2010. In late 2012, by popular demand, Matt compiled a retrospective of solo recordings, both previously-released and unreleased, titled ***As You Are***. His latest recording project, ***Balance***, features Matt on unaccompanied solo guitar and was officially released in April of 2017. Additional recording projects with his trio and a number of collaborations are in the works.

In addition to his solo work, Matt's current range of musical projects include his **Power Trio Jazz Project** (with **Kenwood Dennard** or **Adrian Valosin** on drums and **Steve Beskrone** on bass) as well as collaborations.



Photo: M.A. Richards

“I always maintain a sense of spontaneity which keeps each performance unique, both for the audience and for myself.”

Matt Richards

Matt Richards

Born and raised in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, guitarist **Matt Richards** grew up in the culturally fertile cross-currents of the late 1960s. His musical pathway opens in the mix of folk, rock and psychedelic music that defined that decade and eventually guides him into the hyperactive jazz-fusion of the 1970s. Initially a self-taught player, Matt began earnestly developing the technically advanced musical abilities necessary to be part of that highly-energized genre. As his musicianship developed, he discovered straight-ahead jazz and classical music and began incorporating the acoustic guitar in various projects. He assimilated Spanish, Latin American and various world influences while developing a unique fingerstyle approach to solo guitar.

With his acoustic performances, Matt gathers musical styles and influences together to create his unique approach to solo guitar. He has been featured as a solo artist on a variety of televised programs, including **Miles of Music** and **Puerto Rican Panorama**. Matt performed on-screen in the independent film **Smoke And Mirrors**. He has been featured at the **Montreal Jazz Festival**, the **Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival**, the **Frankford Arts Festival**, the **NAMM Winter and Summer Shows**, the **Montreal Guitar Show**, **One Month Festival** of South Korea, **Daniel Pearl Music Days** and **SUNOCO Welcome America** celebrations. Matt also established the locally-based **Solo Guitar On A Saturday Morning** series in 2015.

In duo settings, Matt has collaborated with guitarists **Larry Coryell**, **Tony Hughes** and **Emiliano Pardo**, flutist **Katherine Barbato** and vocalists **Jay Katz** and **Phyllis Chapell**.

While he has led a number of his own groups, Matt's current trio, the **Power Trio Jazz Project**, allows him and his band members the opportunity to bring their energized, interactive skills together with stunning results. The group's current roster of first-rate musical talent includes bassist **Steve Beskrone** and drummers **Mike Clark**, **Kenwood Dennard** or **Adrian Valosin**.

Matt has also worked with a range of established artists, including **Arlyn Wolters**, **Joey DeFrancesco**, **Café**, **Essra Mohawk**, **Herbie Nix**, **Marlon Simon**, **Elio Villafranca** and **Bobby Zankel**. He has played in support for artists such as **Paco Pena**, **Peppino D'Agostino**, **Richie Havens** and **Dave Mason**.

A current faculty member at the **Ambler Music Academy**, Matt served as Head of Faculty at the **FrankfordStyle School for Creative Arts** and Music Program Director for **Zanaras Music Stores**. In addition to private instruction, Matt conducts workshops and masterclasses that focus on playing techniques, arranging and performing.

Balance, an all-solo-guitar recording and Matt's fifth release, was released in April of 2017.

Matt Richards

At A Glance

Matt's rendition of *Manha de Carnaval* is a masterpiece. I've never heard better.

Larry Coryell

Impossible to define and largely improvisational... *One In Mind* suggests a musician who's always going to be pushing the boundaries.

Acoustic

Thank you for making a very impressionable presentation at An Die Musik. We look forward to having you back in the near future.

An Die Musik

The Matt Richards Group does not play your grandfather's brand of jazz, unless that patriarch happens to be John McLaughlin. The energized sound this trio produces is most definitely 21st century and their collective interaction borders on psychic. Whether on six-string guitar or a fretless 11-string hybrid, Richards is truly a guitarist's guitarist.

Jazztimes.com

The audience absolutely enjoyed your music as well as your stories! Certainly think about another date....

Cheltenham Arts Center

Travel troubles can be stressful, but you came right in and were very professional. The audience loved your performance.

Dover Public Library

The album *One In Mind* offers evidence of Matt's versatility. Most of the tracks were recorded live, including jazz standards recorded with Bill Zola in the early 90s that may owe as much to the influence of Bill Evans as to Django Reinhardt.

Jazztimes.com

Venues / Festivals / Events

Abington Arts Center
Academy of Natural Science
Alex's Jazz Underground
American Heart Association Festival
An die Musik Live
Arts In The Park
Asociacion de Musicos Latino
 Americanos
Audubon Center
Augie's Café
Barnes Foundation
Barnes & Noble
Berklee College of Music
Bijou Café
Birdland
Blue Moon
Blue Note
Borders Books & Music
Cafe Habana
Casey's Jazz Café
Chestnut Cabaret
Chris' Jazz Café
Cleopatra's Needle
CoreStates Jazz Festival
Daily Grind
Daniel Pearl Days
Delaware Art Museum
Doylestown Arts Festival
Elkins Estate
Frankford Arts Festival
Free Library Latin Arts Festival
Glen Foerd on the Delaware
Grand Opera House
Grendel's Lair
Havana
Harvest Music & Arts Festival
Historic Lewiston Jazz Festival
Jamie's House of Music
Jazz By Night in Media
Jersey City Museum
Jewish Museum
J.J. Bitting's
JJ's Grotto
Just Jazz
Kramer Books / Afterwards Café
Kavehaz
Kimmel Regional Performing Arts Center

Lehigh University
Manayunk Arts Festival
Main Point
Melon Jazz Festival
Montréal Guitar Show (Canada)
Montréal Jazz Festival (Canada)
NAMM Summer Show
NAMM Winter Show
SGI-USA Community Center
National AIDS Awareness Day
National Constitution Center
Naturist Society Eastern Gathering
Naturist Society Midwestern Gathering
Night Music at Temple University
One Month Festival (South Korea)
Paris Wine Bar
Paul Robeson Center for the Arts
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Philadelphia Art Museum
Philadelphia International Airport
Piccolo Trattoria
PSFS Jazz Festival
Puerto Rican Panorama
Ridley Creek State Park
Ripley Music Hall
Sidewalk Café
Small's
Smoke
Solo Guitar On A Saturday Morning
Starr's
Steel City
SUNOCO Welcome America
Taller Puertoricano
The Point
The Priory
Tin Angel
Tyler Arboretum
Underground Club
Village Gate
Visiones
Witherspoon Grill
World Cafe Live
WDIY Acoustic Eclectic
WXPN Spring Fest
WYSP Holiday Festival
Zanzibar Blue

Matt Richards

Workshops

Improvisation – Taking the Solo

Matt takes on the concept of improvising and creating a spontaneous solo within a musical context. He relates the often daunting consideration of making an unique musical statement to engaging in a friendly conversation and explains that music, like spoken language, is a means of communicating. He points out that the technical aspects of chords, scales, rhythm and harmony relate to words, phrases and grammar and can be similarly utilized when 'conversing' in music.

Matt shares his own approach to the skills and understanding that can help develop an aspect of 'fluency' in expressing oneself through music. In addition to the technical considerations that contribute to 'musical fluency', he discusses different ways of perceiving and approaching improvisation and how they can ultimately interconnect.

The material relates to most genres of music and all references are guitar-based. While it is suggested that players be of at least intermediate level in terms of playing skill, 'advanced beginners' can benefit.

Arranging for Solo Guitar

Matt is well-regarded for his signature solo renditions of both contemporary and 'standard' music as well as his own original compositions. His highly-developed approach to arrangement and harmony enables him to create a very musical signature sound that is uniquely his own.

Matt explores every aspect of his process, from harmonizing and arranging to voicing chords and creating cadences that open up new possibilities. He includes some concepts in music theory and shares playing techniques that allow him to bring out unique qualities in his arrangements.

The material relates primarily to solo guitar performance and incorporates fingerstyle technique, though it is not limited in application to fingerstyle players. It is suggested that players be of intermediate to advanced level in terms of playing skill. Basic knowledge of music theory is helpful but is not mandatory.

In his workshops and in all of his educational endeavors Matt draws upon his personal experience as an active musician and his 25 years in music instruction. He has personally taught students from beginner through advanced levels, ranging from five to 75 years of age. Matt's student guitar ensembles have been the recipients of educational grants and awards and have performed in locally-based events and festivals. His guitar-focused workshops are featured both in conjunction with his performances and as standalone events. Matt's collaborative workshops with drummer Kenwood Dennard have been presented at Berklee College.

For additional information: workshops@MattRichardsMusic.net

Matt Richards – Solo Guitar

Technical Requirements*

A professional quality full-range sound system in good working order suitable for venue/performance area

A qualified sound technician to operate the sound system

- technician must participate in set-up and sound check prior to performance

One chair of standard height without arms (piano bench, folding chair, etc.)

Two microphones on adjustable boom stands

- one professional quality condenser mic for guitar use
- one professional quality microphone for announcements

Professional DI into sound system

2 onstage monitors facing the performer

Access in the performance area to at least one grounded electrical outlet

****Please note: The size and capacity of a venue may dictate different technical requirements. Specifications may be adjusted accordingly with prior notice.***

Power Trio Jazz Project

Technical Requirements*

House system

A professional quality full-range sound system in good working order with appropriate service for venue/performance area

A qualified sound technician to configure mic'ing and operate the sound system

Professional quality microphones and DI into sound system

Three to four monitors in performance area facing the performers

Access in the performance area to at least two grounded standard electrical outlets

One chair of standard height without arms (piano bench, folding chair, etc.)

Two microphones on adjustable boom stands:

- one high-quality condenser mic for acoustic guitar use
- one mic for announcements

Backline

(Required for fly dates)

Professional quality guitar amplifier in good working order

- Roland Jazz Chorus JC120 (or similar twin-speaker JC model) *or*
- Quilter Micropro 1X10 or 1X12

Professional quality bass amplifier in good working order

- Hartke HyDrive or Kickback Combo *or*
- SWR Black Beauty or similar

Professional quality drum set in good working order

- Any major brand in standard bebop configuration
 - 1 18" bass drum
 - 1 12" mounted tom
 - 1 14" floor tom
 - 1 5"x14" or 6"x14" snare drum (wood or metal) w/ stand
 - 3 lightweight cymbal stands
 - 1 hi-hat stand w/ clutch
 - 1 single bass drum pedal
 - 1 adjustable drum throne

****Please note: A venue's size and capacity may dictate different technical requirements. Flexibility is possible and should be discussed prior to finalizing all arrangements.***