

BILLY WATMAN

Billy is an award winning 18 year old Anglo-Brazilian classical & fingerstyle instrumental guitarist. Currently based in London, he is studying classical guitar performance at the Royal College of Music under the guidance of critically acclaimed virtuoso Gary Ryan.

Playing since the age of 6, and inspired by the likes of Rodrigo y Gabriela, Tommy Emmanuel and Mike Oldfield, he first started to perform live at the Edinburgh Fringe as a busker at the age of 9, and has continued to grace the Royal Mile at the festival every year since.

In 2016, aged just 14, he reached the grand final of 'Guitar Star' – a guitar based talent show for Sky Arts TV, broadcast all over Europe, Australia and South America.

Throughout the 9 episode show, Billy stunned audiences with some extraordinary performances for judges and mentors including Jazz legend George Benson, Classical Virtuoso Miloš Karadaglic, Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi, and David Bowie's producer Tony Visconti who described him as 'a little genius'.

Billy's online videos of arrangements of popular songs played in a classical style have achieved phenomenal viewing figures, with several over 10 million and overall estimates in the region of 100 million views across all platforms. His performances of Bohemian Rhapsody have been recognised and shared by both Queen and Brian May's official social media channels.

Further TV and Radio work has included guest appearances with comedian Rory Bremner at two sold out theatre shows in Edinburgh for BBC Radio Scotland, and in summer 2019 Billy was special guest of MOBO award winning Jazz saxophonist Yolanda Brown on her BBC TV show 'Yolanda's Band Jam'.

A hugely experienced live performer, he has twice graced the main stage of Towersey Festival, supporting Midge Ure, The Shires and The Proclaimers. He has performed live at numerous iconic UK music venues, including the legendary Abbey Road Studio number 2 of Beatles fame, London's Royal Festival Hall, The Cavern Club in Liverpool and The Latitude Festival.

In 2019, to promote the release of his first full length CD 'Riversong' Billy toured the UK, performing at a variety of specialist guitar nights, arts theatres and festivals.

He has supported virtuoso acoustic guitarists Jon Gomm and Clive Carroll, performed at a number of UK and European festivals and music exhibitions, including 'Musikmesse' (Frankfurt), 'The Acoustic Festival of Britain', the iconic 'Ullapool Guitar Festival' (Scotland) and 'The Henley Festival' on the same bill as The Pet Shop Boys and Chaka Khan.

Equally at ease on both steel and nylon strings, and refusing to be 'pigeon holed' into a specific style, Billy's live show offers a mesmerizing, genre defying journey through music, with repertoire spanning Classical, Flamenco and Pop, through to Electronic Trance and Classic Rock – all on 1 guitar.

Officially endorsed by several major brands and regularly performing at music shows, corporate events, and exhibitions Billy is available for TV and Session work, Private bookings and Festival Performances.

WEBSITE: WWW.BILLYWATMAN.COM

FACEBOOK: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BILLYWATMANMUSIC](https://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BILLYWATMANMUSIC)

CONTACT / BOOKINGS : INFO@BILLYWATMAN.COM OR CALL JOHN ON 07764 181141 (UK)

