

LONG BIOGRAPHY

MATTHEW MAYER — LONG BIO

There were no major record labels, industry connections or celebrated music institutions in the beginning of Matthew Mayer's story.

There was an old upright piano.

Mayer grew up in **Canistota, South Dakota**, a small town of roughly 700 people. He began playing at age twelve, inspired in part by pianist George Winston and by the possibilities he discovered in the instrument itself.

Some of his earliest performances took place in an unlikely venue: the waiting room of a chiropractic clinic in his hometown. On Wednesday evenings, Mayer would sit at an old upright piano and play for the patience. Sometimes only a handful of people were listening.

Those modest beginnings would eventually lead somewhere difficult to have imagined at the time.

Mayer began releasing his own recordings in the late 1990s and gradually built an independent career centered on original solo piano music. Over more than twenty-five years, he has released more than twenty albums and developed a worldwide audience without following the conventional major-label route.

His recorded catalog has now surpassed **800 million streams**.

In 2026, Mayer's career reached another milestone when his recordings achieved sustained success on the Billboard charts, including reaching **#1 on Billboard's New Age Albums chart where he has stayed for 34 weeks**.

At the same time, the geographic reach of the career expanded dramatically.

In 2026, Mayer performed and worked internationally across Europe and the United States, with appearances and projects extending through countries including Croatia, Serbia, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and Hungary.

In Switzerland, Mayer took the piano high into the Alps on top of the famous Gloria Plz Schilthorn (location of one of the James Bond 007 movies)—an image that would eventually become closely connected to his album *Elevation*. In southern Italy, he performed on the main stage Ceglie Messapica, Piano Days and created music and imagery along the Adriatic coast. His work in Serbia included live performances with the talented Matej Jovanovic and national television exposure, while collaborations continued to connect his American roots with musicians and audiences abroad.

Those experiences became part of the larger story behind **Elevation**, Mayer's 2026 album centered on the idea of ascent.

The album features Croatian pianist and composer **Matej Meštrović** and was produced with American guitarist, artist, model and producer **Malina Moye** and Grammy Award-winning Japanese artist and producer **Masa Takumi**.

For Mayer, elevation is not simply a metaphor for success. It represents distance traveled, perspective gained and the continuing decision to move beyond what came before.

That philosophy also reflects the unusual path of his career.

Mayer is the founder of **SoloPiano.com**, an independent platform created to support solo piano artists and introduce their work to listeners. The community has grown to encompass hundreds of artists, extending Mayer's contribution to piano music well beyond his own catalog.

His career includes extensive streaming success, Billboard chart appearances and international media coverage. He was quoted by *Rolling Stone* in its coverage following the death of George Winston—an artist whose music had helped inspire Mayer decades earlier, with Mayer coining the phrase of Winston “The Godfather of Solo Piano”.

Yet one of the most significant chapters of the story is also bringing Mayer back toward where it began.

On December 22, 2026, he returns to South Dakota for **Matthew Mayer: A Christmas Piano Miracle – Live in Concert** at the Washington Pavilion's Mary W. Sommervold Hall in Sioux Falls.

For an artist whose music has traveled hundreds of millions of times around the world, the performance represents something more personal: a return to the region where a twelve-year-old boy first began imagining what might be possible at a piano.

Thought the audience and geography is considerably wider - The instrument remains the center of it all - with the goal of connection, authenticity, and magic.