

2019 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee

MATT MORTON

GRADUATED: 1995

RESIDES: HILLIARD, OHIO

Matt Morton is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, and engineer/producer from Gahanna, Ohio. He started on the guitar and has gone on to learn the bass, piano, drums, mandolin, cuatro, charango, ukulele, and banjo, among many others. He graduated with honors, from Gahanna Lincoln High School in 1995. He participated in Key Club, Student Council, National Honor Society, Chorale, A Cappella Choir, Musicals, Soccer, Tennis, Jazz Band, Varsity Varieties, and his student band "651" (the namesake of his future music production company).

Morton won a Trustee Scholarship to Denison University where he joined the Honors Program, majored in Environmental Studies, took several recording and guitar classes, and served as the musical leader of the Denison Hilltoppers, a male a cappella group.



He co-founded the rock group "The Shantee" along with two other GLHS alums (Mike Perkins and Jason Mowrey). He graduated from the Honors Program at Denison in 1999, and devoted the next few years to recording

several albums with The Shantee, touring nationally, and opening for many bands

In 2003, Morton shifted his focus to creating custom music for film, TV, and commercials. He founded the music production and publishing company Studio 651 Ltd. and began producing short web film

scores for local companies including Abercrombie & Fitch and Ohio Health. Then he moved on to feature-length scores including 'Scaring the Fish' (starring Max Casella, Anthony Rapp, and GLHS alum Chance Pinnell), John Urbano's Panama City documentary 'Beauty of the Fight', Todd Miller's Emmy-winning Sundance documentary 'Dinosaur 13' (Lionsgate, CNN Films), and Miller's archival documentary 'Apollo 11' (NEON, CNN Films). His short-form and commercial clients include CNN Films (their Apollo 17 short documentary 'The Last Steps'), SapientNitro, Ketchum, JPMorgan Chase, Wendy's, Scotts Miracle-Gro, American Eagle, Hollister

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Co., the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), Mercy Health, and the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation (CFPF).

Morton has also used his love of music to teach, mentor, and to contribute to charitable organizations close to his heart. He began teaching private guitar, bass, ukulele, songwriting, and recording classes in 2003, and his focus on keeping lessons fun and driven by his students' favorite music has kept his schedule full for over 15 years.

"Matt always continues to provide music lessons to young and old alike which highlights his dedication to education. I can't think of a more deserving person to be in the GLHS Hall of Fame," said film director and friend Todd Miller.

Morton has continued to live in and contribute to the Central Ohio community. He and his wife Jen currently live in Hilliard.