Wheelchair-Using DJ and Bladder Cancer Survivor Turns Recovery Into Music to Raise Awareness and Funds

Wednesday 11 November, 2026

London, United Kingdom - Matthew Kayne, a radio DJ, disability campaigner and bladder cancer survivor who lives with cerebral palsy, is calling on the public to learn the early warning signs of bladder cancer as he raises funds for Bladder Cancer UK through his original music.

Matthew, 42, was born with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair full time. In December 2022, after noticing blood in his urine, he contacted his GP and was referred to the urology department at the Royal Free Hospital. A cystoscopy revealed multiple tumours, including a large tumour in the bladder wall, and he was diagnosed with aggressive bladder cancer.

Over the following months, Matthew underwent two procedures to remove the tumours, the second taking place on his birthday. When the tumours returned, he was prescribed a six-week course of BCG treatment delivered directly into the bladder. A worldwide shortage of the drug delayed his treatment, and when it began the pain became unbearable. After careful consultation with specialists, who weighed the added risks of surgery for a patient with cerebral palsy, Matthew chose to have his bladder removed.

The operation took place on 4 August. Matthew faced complications including an infection and a second operation, and moved from intensive care to a ward and then to a rehabilitation centre closer to home. He now lives with a stoma.

During his recovery, Matthew found strength in music therapy. He went on to write and release two original songs. "Free Like a Bird" was inspired by his experience of cancer and disability, while his newest single, "Look At Me Now", represents the next stage of his life after cancer. Matthew is using the single to raise money for Bladder Cancer UK, a charity providing support, information and advocacy for people affected by the disease.

Speaking about his music, Matthew said: "It's more than music; it's my journey of strength and freedom."

Explaining what music meant to him during treatment, he said: "Music has been a crucial part of my healing journey and resilience. It has provided me with an emotional outlet and a way to cope with the challenges of my health conditions."

Matthew is also the founder and presenter of Sugar Kayne Radio, a station broadcasting on DAB across North East London, North East and South West Essex and South Hertfordshire, as well as online, through a free app for iPhone and Android, and on smart speakers. The station plays pop, R&B, rock and hits from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, and aims to give a voice to disabled people, carers and the wider community.

Alongside broadcasting, Matthew volunteers with Jewish Care, where he supports the volunteering department, helps connect people and assists with fundraising and community projects. He has also organised an online petition calling on the government to launch a full review of NHS wheelchair services.

Reflecting on why he gives back, Matthew said: "Surviving bladder cancer changed everything. Volunteering helps me use my experiences to support others."

Matthew hopes that by sharing his story, more people will recognise symptoms such as blood in the urine and seek medical advice early. He also wants to show that disability need not limit ambition, and that people living with long-term conditions deserve greater visibility in the media and the music industry.

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The music video for "Look At Me Now" can be viewed at https://youtu.be/RqStLrcpZLY and Matthew's fundraising page can be found at https://www.gofundme.com/f/raising-funds-for-bladder-cancer-uk-through-music-and-lived

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