

# BEST QUOTES ON MUSIC

After a stirring concert at New York's outdoor Lewisohn Stadium when Marian Anderson had sung encore after encore, a thousand people crowded around the backstage entrance, asking only a glimpse of the woman who had moved them so deeply. In response to continued calls, the great singer stepped out onto the porch, still wearing her white, concert gown. She stood silent and motionless for a moment, then said quietly to the crowd, 'Thank you for letting me sing.'

—Carolyn Roland

When Spielberg first showed John Williams a cut of Schindler's List, Williams was so moved he had to take a walk outside to collect himself. Upon his return, Williams told Spielberg he deserved a better composer. Spielberg replied, 'I know, but they're all dead.'

—Unknown

The Babje flute, fashioned from the femur of a bear, has been carbon-dated to 40,000 years old. So how far back were we making drums or just shouting and clapping? As some anthropologists put it: 'We sang before we spoke.'

—Zoe Cormier

Back in the 1970s and '80s, most professional orchestras transitioned one by one to 'blind' auditions, in which each musician seeking a job performed from behind a screen. The move was made in part to stop conductors from favoring former students, which it did. But it also produced another result: the proportion of women winning spots in the most-prestigious orchestras shot up fivefold, notably when they played instruments typically identified closely with men.

--Don Peck

Amateurs practice until they can get it right; professionals practice until they can't get it wrong.

--Harold Craxton

If I don't practice one day, I know it; if I don't practice two days, the critics know it; and if I don't practice for three days, everyone knows it.

--Peter Tchaikovsky

Learning to perform on stage is really learning to live comfortably with fear.

--Isaac Stern

It's strange how some songs with memories tied to them went to a person's heart and stayed there.

--Patricia Beatty

If music could be translated into human speech, it would no longer need to exist.

--Ned Rorem

Music is fundamental—one of the great sources of life, health, strength and happiness.

--Luther Burbank

Pete Seeger (93) said to Arlo Guthrie (65), 'I don't want to do big shows anymore. I can't play the way I used to play, and I can't sing like I used to sing.' Arlo responded, 'That's all right, Pete. The people coming to see us can't hear like they used to hear!'

—Pete Seeger and Arlo  
Guthrie

I remember hearing Bird, Charlie Parker, play 'Ain't She Sweet' three straight nights and he never played it the same way twice. I asked him why. He said the wind doesn't blow the same way every day, so why should I play the song the same way every time? I didn't gather the real import of what he said until years later when I was driving up in the country and I saw a dog on a leash. He was jumping to the right, jumping to the left, jumping up and down, and he could not jump beyond that leash. Now the dog had all kinds of liberty, but it could not go beyond the leash. Bird never stopped playing 'Ain't She Sweet;' the parameters were the song, but his innovation was within the song.

--John Henrik Clark

[When he first saw the piano score for the Petrushka] I couldn't even look at it, it was like poison, some kind of hell on paper.

--Pianist, Alexis  
Weissenberg

I worry that the person who thought up Muzak may be thinking up something else.

--Lily Tomlin

Sometimes we can name the things we feel, like joy or sadness or love or hate or peacefulness. But there are other feelings so deep and special that we have no words for them, and that's where music is especially marvelous. It names the feelings for us, only in notes instead of words.

--Leonard Bernstein

No matter what stories people tell you about what music means, forget them. Stories are not what music means. Music is never *about* things. Music just *is*. It's a lot of beautiful notes and sounds put together so well that we get pleasure out of hearing them.

--Leonard Bernstein

Someone who knows only music, understands nothing about it.

—Hanns Eisler

To me, Mozart is our Shakespeare, the one who wrote the most dramatic, psychologically most baffling music. He combined ideas that no one else would have thought of putting together.

—Lukas Foss

Mozart wrote so many works in his thirty-five years that it would take a lifetime just to write out the notes. We literally do not know how he did it.

—Lukas Foss

What do I love about opera? Its glorious music, high drama and gorgeous voices. An operatic voice is like no other. I was a super once—an extra—in *Die Fledermaus*, and was seated within three feet of Plácido Domingo. I had never heard a voice of that beauty so close up. It felt as if an electric shock were running through me.

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Shortly after his appointment as professor of music at the University of California, Los Angeles, world-famous Russian violinist Jascha Heifetz was asked what had prompted this change of direction in his career. 'Violin-playing is a perishable art,' said Heifetz solemnly. 'It must be passed on as a personal skill; otherwise it is lost.' Then, with a smile, he continued: 'I remember my old violin professor in Russia. He said that someday I would be good enough to teach.'

--Jascha Heifetz

Like hip-hop or jazz, the musical as we know it is essentially American.

—Jeff MacGregor

The lyrics of pop songs are so banal that if you show a spark of intelligence they call you a poet. And if you say you're not a poet then people think you're putting yourself down. But the people who call you a poet are people who never read poetry. Like poetry was something defined by Bob Dylan. They never read, say, Wallace Stevens. That's poetry.

--Paul Simon

'How odd to see a cowboy play the piano,' marveled a Manhattan music aficionado upon encountering a gangly young Texan pianist, Van Cliburn, soon after his arrival in New York in the early 1950s. She was not alone in swooning when he rolled out his romantic, heavily Russian repertoire. Forget cowboy—he sounded, and looked, like an expressive angel. With his curly golden locks, baby face, prayers before performances, and reverent swaying on the bench, he wasn't just wholesomely American. He was heavenly.

—Nigel Cliff

I think America concedes that true American music has sprung from the Negro.

—William Christopher Handy

Let a short Act of Parliament be passed, placing all street musicians outside the protection of the law, so that any citizen may assail them with stones, sticks, knives, pistols, or bombs without incurring any penalties.

—George Bernard Shaw

The football team will be playing before and after tonight's featured performance of the marching band's halftime show.

—*BandNerd.com*

New research is confirming and expanding an idea long held by those who work with dementia patients: Music can not only improve the mood of people with neurological diseases, it can boost cognitive skills and reduce the need for antipsychotic drugs.

—Mary Ellen Geist

No one should be allowed to play the violin until he has mastered it.

—Jim Fiebig

I can't even imagine a life as a non-musician. I say this because I heard a door squeak a melodic minor 7th earlier and realized that only a musician would realize that.

—Unknown

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'

—Erma Bombeck

The world always seems brighter when you've just made something that wasn't there before.

—Neil Gaiman

The Chinese never achieved the heights of Western classical music—there is no Chinese equivalent of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*—but high traditional music is deeply entwined with Chinese civilization.

--Amy Chub

The typical composer writes his first major work at age 26, peaks at about age 40 with both his best work and maximum output, and then declines, writing his last significant musical composition at 52.

—Dean Keith Simonton

It would be vain to try to put into words that immeasurable sense of bliss which comes over me directly a new idea awakens in me and begins to assume a different form. I forget everything and behave like a madman. Everything within me starts pulsing and quivering; hardly have I begun the sketch ere one thought follows another.

--Tchaikovsky

You can't sing about love unless you know about it.

--Billy Eckstine

All the conductor has to do is stand back and try not to get in the way. Mozart is doing all the work.

--Colin R. Davis

It's like a whole orchestra, the piano for me.

—Dave Brubeck

The wise musicians are those who play what they can master.

--Duke Ellington

For 37 years I've practiced 14 hours a day, and now they call me a genius.

--Pablo de Sarasate

The chances that you live in this country and don't know Willie Nelson are somewhere between slim and none. Like Louis Armstrong—and almost no one else, really—he is a musician whose appeal transcends genre, race, age, or fashion, a stranger to no one, and if you had to put a face on American music, that face would be Willie Nelson's.

--Malcolm Jones

I'm very much of the school of recording more than less. And I always request that artists overwrite. Write as much as possible—and then we can narrow down—because you never really know. The best song you write might be No. 25, not No. 12. We record probably 30 songs to get the 12 or 14 that are on the record.

--Rick Rubin

People who've made a lot of records tend not to make records as good as the ones they made when they're younger. When you're young and you get to make your first record, or your second record, it's the most important thing in your life. When you're making your 10<sup>th</sup> record, or your 50<sup>th</sup> record, it doesn't have that same centrality.

--Rick Rubin

The job of singing is to stay open to the river of soul in all of its manifestations, the dark and the light, without letting your ego get in the way. I never want to be bigger than the song. I just want you to receive it.

--Jennifer Warnes

Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work.

--Stephen King

The three-minute pop song resulted from the fact that 78s could only contain that much music.

--Malcolm Jones

You are made of music--lonely music when you are lonely, vast music when you feel vast, even happy music sometimes. The whole stream of your life, already musical, is simply waiting for you to hear it.

—W. A. Mathieu

Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.

--Maya Angelou

We all know how to get a hand at the end of a piece by making a loud noise with a big drum.

--Aaron Copland

If I had my life to live over again, I would have made a rule to read some poetry and listen to some music at least once a week; for perhaps the parts of my brain now atrophied would have thus been kept active through use. The loss of these tastes is a loss of happiness, and may possibly be injurious to the intellect, and more probably to the moral character, by enfeebling the emotional part of our nature.

—Charles Darwin

The blues are the songs of despair; gospel songs are the songs of hope.

--Mahalia Jackson

'Tis wonderful how soon a piano gets into a log hut on the frontier.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

I ensure you that the typewriting machine, when played with expression, is not more annoying than the piano when played by a sister or near relation.

--Oscar Wilde

My greatest gift, given to me by forces which confound genetics, environment, race, or ambition, is a singing voice. My second greatest gift, without which I would be an entirely different person with an entirely different story to tell, is a desire to share that voice, and the bounties it has heaped upon me, with others. From that combination of gifts has developed an immeasurable wealth—a wealth of adventures, of friendships, and of plain joys.

--Joan Baez

Music is audio massage.

--Dan L. Miller

Sometimes I think, not so much am I a pianist, but a vampire. All my life I have lived off the blood of Chopin.

--Arthur Rubenstein

Opera, next to Gothic architecture, is one of the strangest inventions of modern man. It could not have been foreseen by any logical process.

--Sir Kenneth Clark

When music fails to agree to the ear, to soothe the ear and the heart and the senses, then it has missed its point.

--Maria Callas

Jazz came to America 300 years ago in chains.

--Paul Whiteman

Is it not strange that sheep's guts should hale souls out of men's bodies?

--William Shakespeare

Music is heard with the ears, understood with the heart.

--Rebecca Susan Odell

It will be generally admitted that Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* is the most sublime noise that has ever penetrated into the ear of man.

--E. M. Forster

True music...must repeat the thought and inspirations of the people and the time. My people are Americans. My time is today.

--George Gershwin

Going to the Opera, like getting drunk, is a sin that carries its own punishment with it, and that a very severe one.

--Hannah More

Opera is when a guy gets stabbed in the back and instead of bleeding he sings.

--Ed Gardner

Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.

--Henry Van Dyke

A jazz musician is a juggler who uses harmonies instead of oranges.

--Benny Greenry Crown

Music is the shorthand of emotion.

--Leo Tolstoy

There is a 'reach' to music which the other arts have not; it seems to 'get' you in an exhausted mood and quiets and refreshes where a book or a picture is not so sure.

--Charles M. Schwab

Musical compositions, it should be remembered, do not inhabit certain countries, certain museums, like paintings and statues. The Mozart Quintet is not shut up in Salzburg: I have it in my pocket.

--Henri Rabaud

When Handel was told by his sovereign that the performance of the 'Messiah' had afforded him pleasure, the composer replied: 'Your majesty, I did not intend to amuse or to afford pleasure; I meant to make the world better.'

--Karl Merz

Music produces like effects on the mind as good medicine on the body.

--Mirandola

With every child listening daily to the gems of good music, preference for the beautiful in music will follow as dawn follows night.

--Hollis Dann

Gustav Mahler maintained that if a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music.

--Laurence J. Peter

Wagner's music is better than it sounds.

--Mark Twain

I know that the twelve notes in each octave and the varieties of rhythm offer me opportunities that all of human genius will never exhaust.

--Igor Stravinsky

I adore art...when I am alone with my notes, my heart pounds and the tears stream from my eyes, and my emotion and my joys are too much to bear.

--Giuseppe Verdi

Had I learned to fiddle, I should have done nothing else.

--Samuel Johnson

Bach opens a vista to the universe. After experiencing him, people feel there is meaning to life after all.

--Helmut Walcha

I occasionally play works by contemporary composers and for two reasons. First to discourage the composer from writing any more and secondly to remind myself how much I appreciate Beethoven.

--Jascha Heifetz

Mozart is the human incarnation of the divine force of creation.

--Johann W. von Goethe

Every composer knows the anguish and despair occasioned by forgetting ideas which one has no time to write down.

--Hector Berlioz

People compose for many reasons: to become immortal; because the pianoforte happens to be open; because they want to become a millionaire; because of the praise of friends; because they have looked into a pair of beautiful eyes; for no reason whatsoever.

--Robert Schumann

The notes I handle no better than many pianists. But the pauses between the notes—ah, that is where the art resides!

--Arthur Schnabel

I have my own particular sorrows, loves, delights; and you have yours. But sorrow, gladness, yearning, hope, love, belong to all of us, in all times and in all places. Music is the only means whereby we feel these emotions in their universality.

--H. A. Overstreet

Debussy is like a painter who looks at his canvas to see what more he can take out; Strauss is like a painter who has covered every inch and then takes the paint he has left and throws it at the canvas.

--Ernest Bloch

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

--Aldous Huxley

Wagner had some wonderful moments but awful half hours.

--Giacchino Rossini

Brahms has very little melodic invention...he excites and irritates our musical senses without wishing to satisfy them.

--Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky

In music one must think with the heart and feel with the brain.

--George Szell

Where words fail, music speaks.

--Hans Christian  
Andersen

Music cleanses the understanding; inspires it, and lifts it into a realm which it would not reach if it were left to itself.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Music alone ushers man into the portal of an intellectual world, ready to encompass him, but which he may never encompass.

--Beethoven

Music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual life.

--Beethoven

Its language is a language which the soul alone understands, but which the soul can never translate.

--Arnold Bennett

There is no truer truth obtainable  
By Man than comes of music.

--Robert Browning

The songs of musicians are able to change the feelings and conditions of a state.

--Cicero

Music has charms to soothe a savage breast,  
To soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak.  
I've read that things inanimate have moved,  
And, as with living souls, have been inform'd,  
By magic numbers and persuasive sound.

--William Congreve

For a well rounded life one must have music.

--George Eastman

My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it,  
and you simply take as much as you require.

--Sir Edward Elgar

Music...is the best mind-trainer on the list.

--Charles W. Eliot

There is no feeling, except the extremes of fear and grief, that does not find relief in music.

--George Eliot

Song brings of itself a cheerfulness that wakes the heart of joy.

--Euripides

Music is nothing else but wild sounds civilized into time and tune.

--Thomas Fuller

Music is one of the most forcible instruments for training, for arousing, for governing the mind and spirit of man.

--William Ewart  
Gladstone

The effect of good music is not caused by its novelty. On the contrary, it strikes us more the more we are familiar with it.

--Goethe

Music is the common tie between races and nationalities, and recognizes no caste.

--Jacques L. Gottlieb

Music is a friend of labor for it lightens the task by refreshing the nerves and spirit of the worker.

--William Green

Alas for those that never sing,  
But die with all their music in them!

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Music is the literature of the heart; it commences where speech ends.

--Alphonse de Lamartine

Those who are not touched by music, I hold to be like stocks and stones.

--Martin Luther

Music, the mosaic of the Air.

--Andrew Marvell

What a divine calling is music! Though everything else may appear shallow and repulsive, even the smallest task in music is so absorbing, and carries us so far away from town, country, earth and all worldly things, that it is truly a blessed gift of God.

--Mendelssohn

The art is used too much as an amusement, as an exhibition of skill, as a means of attracting attention, and too little as a means of education.

--Karl Merz

The power of music is so great, that in the legends of all nations, the invention of the art is ascribed to the gods.

--Karl Merz

Music—even in the most harrowing moment—ought never to offend the ear, but should always remain music, which desires to give pleasure.

--Mozart

Of all the liberal arts music has the greatest influence over the passions, and is that which legislators ought to give the greatest encouragement.

--Napoleon I

Without music life would be a mistake.

--Friedrich Wilhelm  
Nietzsche

Music is to the mind as air to the body.

--Plato

Music is not a science any more than poetry is. It is a sublime instinct, like genius of all kinds.

--Louise de la Rame

Art thou the evening breeze of this life, or the morning air of the future?

--Jean Paul Richter

Music is for certain among us, more than a pleasure; it is a necessity.

--Romain Rolland

Music is the nearest at hand, the most orderly, the most delicate, and the most perfect, of all bodily pleasures.

--Ruskin

Music is a shower-bath of the soul, washing away all that is impure.

--Schopenhauer

Major is the active and masculine; minor, the passive and feminine in music.

--Schumann

Play always as if a master were listening.

--Schumann

It will be in and through music that human thought will be carried beyond the point it has hitherto reached.

--J. H. Shorthouse

Music: the paradise of the ears.

--Somaize

The fine art which, more than other, ministers to human welfare.  
Where there is beautiful music it is difficult for discontent to live.

--Herbert Spencer

Had I children, my utmost endeavors should be to make them musicians. Considering I have no ear, nor even thought of music, the preference seems odd, and yet it is embraced on frequent recollection. In short, as my aim would be to make them happy, I think it the most probable method. It is a resource which will last them their lives, unless they grow deaf; it depends upon themselves, not on others; always amuses and soothes, if not consoles; and of all fashionable pleasures, is the cheapest.

--Horace Walpole

What love is to man, music is to the arts and to mankind. Music is love itself,—it is the purest, most ethereal language of passion, showing in a thousand ways all possible changes of color and feeling.

--K. M. von Weber

The man who disparages music as a luxury and non-essential is doing the nation an injury. Music now, more than ever before, is a national need. There is no better way to express patriotism than through music.

--Woodrow Wilson

Chopin may now publish anything without putting his name to it...it is impossible to be for a moment uncertain as to its source.

--Robert Schumann

A nation creates music—the composer only arranges it.

--Mikhail Glinka

When people hear good music, it makes them homesick for something they never had, and never will have.

--Edgar Watson Howe

No one can any longer write in the fat style of Strauss. That was killed by Stravinsky. He stripped the body of much of its clothes. Music is the craft of building structures with sound and that is what Stravinsky represents.

--Vladimir Nabokov

What we play is life.

--Louis Armstrong

In musical compositions, so long as we hear merely single tones, we do not hear music. Hearing music depends on the recognition of the in-between of the tones, of their placing and of their spacing.

--Josef Albers

To play great music, you must keep your eyes on a distant star.

--Yehudi Menuhin

Writing more and more to the sound of music, writing more and more like music. Sitting in my studio tonight, playing record after record, music a stimulant of the highest order, far more potent than wine.

--Anaïs Nin

It is better to make a piece of music than to perform one, better to perform one than to listen to one, better to listen to one than to misuse it as a means of distraction, entertainment, or acquisition of 'culture.'

--John Cage

Last year, more Americans went to symphonies than went to baseball games. This may be viewed as an alarming statistic, but I think that both baseball and the country will endure.

--John F. Kennedy

Music expresses that which cannot remain silent and that which cannot be put into words.

—Victor Hugo

When you are not practicing, remember, someone somewhere is practicing, and when you meet him he will win.

--Ed Macauley

Music and rhythm find their way into the secret places of the soul.

--Plato

Music is love in search of a word.

--Sidney Lamier

Life exists for the love of music.

--G. K. Chesterton

The most exciting rhythms seem unexpected and complex, the most beautiful melodies simple and inevitable.

--W. H. Auden

A verbal art like poetry is reflective; it stops to think. Music is immediate, it goes on to become.

--W. H. Auden

Music is a part of us, and either ennobles or degrades our behavior.

--Boethius

Who hears music, feels his solitude  
Peopled at once.

--Robert Browning

Many men are melancholy by hearing music, but it is a pleasing melancholy that it causeth; and therefore to such as are discontent, in woe, fear, sorrow, or dejected, it is a most present remedy.

--Robert Burton

New music: new listening. Not an attempt to understand something that is being said, for, if something were being said, the sounds would be given the shapes of words. Just an attention to the activity of sounds.

--John Cage

Music is edifying, for from time to time it sets the soul in operation.

--John Cage

Who is there that, in logical words, can express the effect music has on us? A kind of inarticulate unfathomable speech, which leads us to the edge of the Infinite, and lets us for moments gaze into that!

--Thomas Carlyle

Music is well said to be the speech of angels; in fact, nothing among the utterances allowed to man is felt to be so divine. It brings us near to the Infinite.

--Thomas Carlyle

Where there's music there can be no evil.

--Cervantes

Music has charms to soothe a savage breast—but not the unmusical one.

--Alexander Chase

As poetry is the harmony of words, so music is that of notes.

--John Dryden

Take a music-bath once or twice a week for a few seasons, and you will find that it is to the soul what the water-bath is to the body.

--Oliver Wendell  
Holmes, Sr.

Music is a beautiful opiate, if you don't take it too seriously.

--Henry Miller

Jazz may be thought of as a current that bubbled forth from a spring in the slums of New Orleans to become the main spring of the twentieth century.

--Henry Pleasants

What strange impulse is it which induces otherwise truthful people to say they like music when they do not, and thus expose themselves to hours of boredom?

--Agnes Repplier

The important thing is to feel your music, *really* feel it and *believe* it.

--Ray Charles

Music is a means of giving form to our inner feelings without attaching them to events or objects in the world.

--George Santayana

If, as is nearly always the case, music appears to express something, this is only an illusion and not a reality.

--Igor Stravinsky

The trouble with music appreciation in general is that people are taught to have too much respect for music; they should be taught to love it instead.

--Igor Stravinsky

Men profess to be lovers of music, but for the most part they give no evidence in their opinions and lives that they have heard it.

--Henry David Thoreau

Whether you listen to Mozart or Duke Ellington, you can deepen your understanding of music only by being a more conscious and aware listener—not someone who is just listening, but someone who is listening for something.

--Aaron Copland

There is something marvelous in music. I might almost say it is, in itself, a marvel. Its position is somewhere between the region of thought and that of phenomena; a glimmering medium between mind and matter, related to both and yet differing from either. Spiritual, and yet requiring rhythm; material, and yet independent of space.

--H. Heine

Spartans played upon the flute to alarm the enemy.

--Plutarch

To Flute-players, nature gave brains there's no doubt,  
But alas! 'tis in vain, for they soon blow them out.

--Greek Proverb

Opera: An exotic and irrational entertainment.

--Samuel Johnson

Clarinet, n. An instrument of torture operated by a person with cotton in his ears. There are two instruments worse than a clarinet—two clarinets.

--Ambrose Bierce

Opera in English is, in the main, just about as sensible as baseball in Italian.

--H. L. Mencken

Piano, n. A parlor utensil for subduing the impenitent visitor. It is operated by depressing the keys of the machine and the spirits of the audience.

--Ambrose Bierce

If a literary man puts together two words about music, one of them will be wrong.

--Aaron Copland

Opera: the graveyard of melody.

--Lord Harewood

After silence that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

--Aldous Huxley

The history of a people is found in its songs.

--George Jellinek

Music is an attempt to express emotions that are beyond speech.

—Elbert Hubbard

The reason some parents want their children to play the piano instead of the violin is that it's harder to lose a piano.

--Unknown

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it.

--Halford E. Luccock

Classical music threatens to develop a tune with every other bar and then disappoints you.

--Don Marquis

B-sharp, never B-flat, always B-natural.

--Unknown

One and the same thing can at the same time be good, bad, and indifferent, e.g., music is good to the melancholy, bad to those who mourn, and neither good nor bad to the deaf.

--Benedict Spinoza

Music must take rank as the highest of the fine arts—as the one which, more than any other, ministers to human welfare.

--Herbert Spencer

Good music: that which penetrates the ear with facility and quits the memory with difficulty.

--Sir Thomas Beecham

There is no music in Nature, neither melody or harmony. Music is the creation of man.

--Hugh R. Haweis

Music resembles poetry; in each  
Are nameless graces which no methods teach,  
And which a master-hand alone can reach.

--Alexander Pope

Even before the music begins there is that bored look on people's faces. A polite form of self-imposed torture, the concert.

--Henry Miller

Explain it as we may, a martial strain will urge a man into the front rank of battle sooner than an argument, and a fine anthem excite his devotion more certainly than a logical discourse.

--Henry Tuckerman

It is in learning music that many youthful hearts learn to love.

--Matthieu Ricard

Music is the only one of the fine arts in which not only man, but all other animals, have a common property—mice and elephants, spiders and birds.

--Jean Paul Friedrich  
Richter

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

--Berthold Auerbach

Great music is a physical storm, agitating to fathomless depths the mystery of the past within us.

--Paul Elmer More

The Blues has been the foundation for all other American music since the beginning.

--Willie Dixon

When I hear music, I fear no danger, I am invulnerable, I see no foe. I am related to the earliest times, and to the latest.

—Henry David Thoreau

All music is what awakes from you when you  
are reminded by the instruments,  
It is not the violins and the cornets, it is not  
the oboe nor the beating drums, nor the  
score of the baritone singer singing his  
sweet romanza, nor that of the men's  
chorus, nor that of the women's chorus.  
It is nearer and farther than they.

--Walt Whitman

The language of tones belongs equally to all mankind, and melody is the absolute language in which the musician speaks to every heart.

--Richard Wagner

I have sat through an Italian opera, 'til, for sheer pain, and inexplicable anguish, I have rushed out into the noisiest places of the crowded street, to solace myself with sounds which I was not obliged to follow and get rid of the distracting torment of endless, fruitless, barren attention!

--Charles Lamb

Classic music is th' kind that we keep thinkin'll turn into a tune.

--Frank McKinney

Let us not forget that the greatest composers were also the greatest thieves. They stole from everyone and everywhere.

--Pablo Casals

From Mozart I learnt to say important things in a conversational way.

--George Bernard Shaw

I do not mind what language an opera is sung in so long as it is the language I don't understand.

--Edward Appleton

In the Negro melodies of America I find all that is needed for a great and noble school of music.

--Antonin Dvorak

Jazz is about the only form of art existing today in which there is freedom of the individual without the loss of group contact.

--Dave Brubeck

Music is the art of thinking with sounds.

--Jules Combarieu

Music touches places beyond our touching.

--Keith Bosley

Too many pieces of music finish too long after the end.

--Igor Stravinsky

Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn.

--Charlie Parker

Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.

--Victor Hugo

Music is a language without a dictionary whose symbols are interpreted by the listener according to some unwritten Esperanto of the emotions.

--Aaron Copland

Pop music is the hamburger of every day.

--Pierre Boulez

Rock 'n roll is music by the inept for the untutored.

--Unknown

Rock and roll is still very much a raunchy, too physical, and unrefined music. Those who approach it as something more delicate, artful, or fashionable do so at great risk and danger, because they probably miss it altogether. Rock and roll is not polite. It is rude.

--Jann Wenner

Music is the glue which has kept this generation from falling apart in the face of incredible adult blindness and ignorance and evilness. It is the new educational system for reform and the medium for revolution.

--Ralph Gleason

Listening to the *Fifth Symphony* of Ralph Vaughan Williams is like staring at a cow for forty-five minutes.

--Aaron Copland

Women ruin music. If the ladies are ill-favoured, the men do not want to play next to them, and if they are well-favoured, they can't.

--Sir Thomas Beecham

There are no women composers, never have been, and possibly never will be.

--Thomas Beecham

Composing a piece of music is very feminine. It is sensitive, emotional, contemplative.

--Barbara Kolb

But after all, I'm a woman. A woman can't play as a man plays. She hasn't the physique and energy. A woman's hand is a limitation in itself.

--Jacqueline DuPré

Composers should write tunes that chauffeurs and errand boys can whistle.

--Thomas Beecham

Music is the universal language of mankind.

--Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

Music is the only language in which you cannot say a mean or sarcastic thing.

--Lord Erskine

Emotion, not thought, is the sphere of music; and emotion quite as often precedes as follows thought.

--H. R. Haweis

Music is the medicine of a troubled mind.

--Walter Haddon

What passion cannot Music raise and quell?

--John Dryden

The language of tones belongs equally to all mankind, and melody is the absolute language in which the musician speaks to every heart.

--Richard Wagner

Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.

--Confucius

The opera is like a husband with a foreign title: expensive to support, hard to understand, and therefore a supreme social challenge.

--Cleveland Amory

Whenever I go to an opera, I leave my sense and reason at the door...and deliver myself up to my eyes and ears.

--Lord Chesterfield

To be a musician you have to be a slave to the instrument. You cannot wing things....Music exists in the moment only, so everything must be exactly right.

--Marta Istomin

What I love best about music is the women who listen to it.

--Jules Goncourt

Jazz will endure, just as long as people hear it through their feet instead of their brains.

--John Philip Sousa

There are two golden rules for an orchestra: start together and finish together. The public doesn't give a damn what goes on in between.

--Thomas Beecham

Music is the healing force of the universe.

--Sun Ra

The spirituals teach us the problem of the twentieth century is not the problem of the color line. The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of civilizing white people.

--Nikki Giovanni

Jazz is not just music, it's a way of life, it's a way of being, a way of thinking. I think that the Negro in America is jazz.

--Nina Simone

The blues is an impulse to keep the painful details and episodes of a brutal experience alive in one's aching consciousness, to finger it's jagged grain, and to transcend it, not by the consolation of philosophy but by squeezing from it a near-tragic, near-comic lyricism.

--Ralph Ellison

The best way to explain rap is that it's a conversation going on between two people from the same neighborhood. I rap to someone who has the same lingo as me and the record buyer is tapping into our phone line.

--Ice T

The greatest part of being a conductor is expressing my feelings about what a particular composer has to say. Being able to reach down inside the players and try to draw the music from them.

--André Raphael Smith

A gentleman knows how to play the accordion, but doesn't.

--Al Cohn

From the glow of enthusiasm I let the melody escape. I pursue it. Breathless I catch up with it. It flies again, it disappears, it plunges into a chaos of diverse emotions. I catch it again, I seize it, I embrace it with delight...I multiply it by modulations, and at last I triumph in the first theme. There is the whole symphony.

--Beethoven

An unalterable and unquestioned law of the musical world required that the German text of French operas sung by Swedish artists should be translated into Italian for the clearer understanding of English-speaking audiences.

--Edith Wharton

What is too silly to be said can be sung.

--Pierre Augustin Caron  
de Beaumarchais

*Parsifal* is the kind of opera that starts at six o'clock. After it has been going three hours, you look at your watch and it says 6:20.

--David Randolph

(On Wagner's *Lohengrin*) The banging and slamming and booming and crashing were something beyond belief. The racking and pitiless pain of it remains stored up in my memory alongside the memory of the time that I had my teeth fixed.

--Mark Twain

Jazz tickles your muscles, symphonies stretch your soul.

--Paul Whiteman

Jazz is so syncopated, you can't always tell what classical composer it was stolen from.

--Unknown

If music is the language of the soul, jazz must be the curse words.

--Unknown

The more you love music, the more music you love.

--Abram Chasins

Modern music is usually played so fast that it's hard to tell what classical composer it was stolen from.

--Unknown

Music is 'Ordered Sound.'

--Harold Samuel

If you want to please only the critics, don't play too loud, too soft, too fast, too slow.

--Arturo Toscanini

Disco is like a musical iron lung for a culture in respiratory distress.

--Jack Kroll

Jazz—It's an art of the city.

--Stewart Davis

There's one advantage to the music the younger generation goes for today; nobody can whistle it.

--Gloria Pitzer

Art is not national. It is international. Music is not written in red, white and blue; it is written with the heart's blood of the composer.

--Nellie Melba

I was born with music inside me....Music was one of my parts. Like my ribs, my liver, my kidney, my heart. Like my blood.

--Ray Charles

He who sings drives away sorrow.

--Italian Proverb

I have yet to find something that beats the power of being in love, or the power of music at its most magical.

--Yo-Yo Ma

There are two kinds of music—good music and bad music. Good music is music that I like to hear. Bad music is music I don't want to hear.

--Fran Lebowitz

Music is a higher revelation than philosophy.

--Beethoven

Classical music is like the girl next door. She's nice, you smile politely when you see her, and you don't really appreciate her. Rock 'n' roll, on the other hand, is like a wild temptress.

--Billy Joel

Anything that is too stupid to be spoken is sung.

--Voltaire

Don't play what's there, play what's not there.

--Miles Davis

I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys of learning.

--Plato

Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duel.

--Unknown

There are many kinds of intelligence. Language ability; math ability; body-sense, like that of a dancer; interpersonal skills and musical ability are all intelligence.

--Bruce Brandt

My music can make the blind see, the lame walk....It regenerates the ears, makes the liver quiver, the bladder splatter and the knees freeze.

--Little Richard

Music can name the unnamable and communicate the unknowable.

--Leonard Bernstein

No human culture has ever existed without music.

--Mickey Hart

Any tendency to consider music a luxury is dangerous. This patently false idea leads to devaluing music in general education, often to the point of eliminating it entirely when budgets are tight.

--Frederick Lieberman

Music is no different than opium.

--Ayatollah Khomeini

The blues had a baby, and they called it rock 'n' roll.

--Muddy Waters

When you're singing and playing rock 'n' roll, you're on the leading edge of yourself.

--Neil Young

Music is the pleasure the human mind experiences from counting without being aware that it is counting.

-- Gottfried Willhelm von  
Leibniz

I was born with music inside me....Music was one of my parts...Like my blood. It was a force already within me when I arrived on the scene. It was a necessity for me —like food or water.

--Ray Charles

Once you've had a Schubert song resonating through your body, once you've known what it's like to nail a high B flat and spin it out like silver, no pleasure come close.

--Marcia Menter

To play great music, you must keep your eyes on a distant star.

--Yehudi Menuhin

...[you] have chosen a life in music. Rather with music...because you live with it one way or another. You reject it, you accept it, you struggle with it daily, you struggle with each piece, you struggle to communicate.

--Libby Larsen

Music makes me forget myself, my actual position; it transports me into another state not my natural one; under the influence of music it seems to me that I feel what I do not really feel, that I understand what I do not really understand, that I can do what I can't do.

--Leo Tolstoy

Violin love is not rational. Violin love is an infatuation, an obsession. The instrument is bewitching and intoxicating one moment, sullen and reticent the next. It is responsive, sensitive to every mood. I do not understand the violin, but I adore it.

--Susan M. Barbieri

Words seem so undefinable, so inexact, so easy to misunderstand compared with real music, which fills the soul with a thousand better feelings. What is expressed to me by music that I love is not too vague to be put into words, but on the contrary, too precise.

--Felix Mendelssohn

I like to think of music as a means of beating back time, making it expand or contract at will, making life feel longer than it actually is.

--Linda Katherine  
Cutting

Every now and then I listen to a piece of music, and it kills me. ...the emotion, the beauty of it all. ...wherever it is. My body just reacts to it. And I say to myself, God, *I'm so lucky that I am able to experience this.* That feeling has never gone away.

-- Itzhak Perlman

Sleep is an excellent way of listening to opera.

--Moliere

In music, I am the melody.

--*The Bhagavad Gita*

Nothing separates the generations more than music. By the time a child is eight or nine, he has developed a passion for his own music that is even stronger than his passions for procrastination and weird clothes.

--Bill Cosby

Life can't be all bad when for \$10 you can buy all the Beethoven sonatas and listen to them for 10 years.

--William F. Buckley, Jr.

If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn.

--Charlie Parker

I merely took the energy it takes to pout and wrote some blues.

--Duke Ellington

Discipline is the refining fire by which talent becomes ability.

--Roy L. Smith

Struggle always comes before success. For most artists, when they have arrived at what the public and critics term success...all the pain and struggle—all the strife and anxiety that preceded—is forgotten.

--Jascha Heifetz

The opportunities of man are limited only by his imagination. But so few have imagination that there are ten thousand fiddlers to one composer.

--Charles Kettering

All creative lives are miserable things. Your creative powers are declining, the things that you do best are harder to do. What greater misery can there be?

--Jack Dunphy

When she started to play, Steinway came down personally and rubbed his name off the piano.

--Bob Hope

Talent hits a target no one else can hit; Genius hits a target no one else can see.

--Arthur Schopenhauer

Thoughts in music and language often depend on the quality of the pen and paper.

--A Friend of Nietzsche

There's nothing remarkable about it. All one has to do is hit the right keys at the right time and the instrument plays itself.

--Johann Sebastian Bach

If music be the food of love, play on...

--William Shakespeare

Creativity is the residue of wasted time.

--Albert Einstein

When you take your mind off worrying about being perfect all the time, sometimes amazing things can happen. So much of performing is a mind game. You're memorizing thousands of notes, and if you start thinking about it in the wrong way, everything can blow up in your face.

--Joshua Bell

It's not about being perfect. It's not about sounding absolutely correct. It's not about what goes on in a computer. It's about what goes on in here (your heart) and what goes on here (your head)...Long live rock 'n' roll.

--Dave Grohl

An orchestra is a model for an ideal global society—a symbol. You have to create harmony. Everyone has to listen to each other, this large, complex group of people with different personalities that has to communicate.

--Gustavo Dudamel

Money is as important as love in generating great art.

--Damien Hirst

Go into the arts. I'm not kidding. The arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way to make life more bearable.

--Kurt Vonnegut

When you're an artist you have to have that selfishness to be alone and create great things to your satisfaction.

--Robert DeNiro

People tend to think a piece of music is the way it is because that's the way the musicians wanted to express what they had to say. I'm saying that there are an awful lot of other factors molding the finished product.

--David Byrne

People used to bring food to the opera and talk and clap. If they really loved an aria, they would yell out for it to be sung again. I'm more with that. When did the Cone of Silence get dropped down?

--David Byrne

I spend my whole day doing art. I believe in thinking and reading and researching and playing and practicing.

--Patricia Barber

There's going to be a big resurgence of people hearing music live. As people become more isolated in front of their screens, they'll look for more excuses to get together. Music's a good excuse for that.

--David Byrne

Do no focus on the past. Be future focused. If you've done something great or terrible in the past, forget it and go on and create the next thing.

--Steve Jobs

To play Beethoven's music is to give oneself over completely to the child-spirit which lived in that grim, awkward, violent man. Without that utter submission it is impossible to play the Adagio of the Ninth. Or, heaven knows, the first movement. And the Finale? Most of all! It is simply unplayable unless we go all the way with him, as he cries out 'Bruder!'

--Leonard Bernstein

Jazz is about freedom within discipline. Usually a dictatorship like in Russia and Germany will prevent jazz from being played because it just seemed to represent freedom, democracy and the United States. Many people don't understand how disciplined you have to be to play jazz. And that is really the idea of democracy—freedom within the Constitution or discipline. You don't just get out there and do anything you want.

--Dave Brubeck

The sense of worth derived from creative work depends upon 'recognition' by others, which is never automatic. As a result, the path of self-realization, even when it is the only open one, is taken with reluctance. Men of talent have to be goaded to engage in creative work. The groans and laments of even the most gifted and prolific echo through the ages.

--Eric Hoffer

One is not quite certain that creativeness in the arts, literature, and science functions best in an environment of absolute freedom. Chances are that a relatively mild tyranny stimulates creativeness.

--Eric Hoffer

In every field of creative activity, there are people famous for their goodness: they are rarely at the top of the tree, which is a harsh environment.

--Clive James

Jazz developed while the great popular music was being turned out. It was a golden age for songs. They had a classic quality in length and shape and form and flexibility of harmony. The jazz musicians were drawn to this music as a source of material.

--John Lewis

There is no reason to believe that jazz can be a living, evolving art form decades after its major source—and the source that linked it to the main currents of popular culture and sentiment—has dried up. Jazz...is a relic—and as such...it cannot have...an expansive and adaptive repertoire.

--Benjamin Schwartz

The humanities are the flower that blossoms on top of the 'stem.' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math.)

--John Lithgow

It transcends everything. It's much bigger than four kids from Liverpool. For me the Beatles are proof of the existence of God. It's so good and so far beyond everyone else that it's not them.

--Rick Rubin

From the beginning, all I've ever cared about is things being great. I never cared about when they were done. Because I also feel like I want the music to last forever. And once you release it, you can't go back and fix it, so you really have to get it right. And that takes time. The things that can't be a factor are time, chart position, radio success, sales—none of those things can get in the way of something being great. All they do is cloud the picture.

--Rick Rubin

My role as a producer is just as a fan. Making music that I want to hear. You're so close to something when you write it that it's hard to have any perspective on how it hits someone else. My job is to be a professional version of the outside world— a listener who is not attached to any of it, who doesn't know the story of how it was written, who doesn't know how it works, who doesn't know why this is important to you. Every record producer does something different. A lot of them are former engineers who come at it from the technical side.

--Rick Rubin

There's a cycle that's dictated by the reality of being a touring artist [when you only have eight weeks between tours to make a record]. At some point in time the cycle takes over, and even though you're not really ready to make the record during that window, it's the only window you have, so you put it out. Cracks in the foundation start. And slowly, over time, the creative process gets eroded, and it becomes something that's just a window in the schedule instead of the most important thing that drives the whole train.

--Rick Rubin

Technology makes it easy to get everything 'right.' But if you rely on technology to get it right, you're removing all of the human drama. The way most music is made today is parts are created and then played perfectly and then copied and pasted. Everything's in time, everything's in tune, but it's not a performance.

--Rick Rubin

Sciences are the how, and the humanities are the why.

--George Lucas

Ask him today to name his favorites in his own catalog, and he'll deflect, as though he doesn't want to be rude, even to a song: 'It's kinda like kids,' he says. 'You can't hardly separate one from the other. If you took the time to write it, put a melody to it, sing it, record it, whatever, then it's important.'

--Malcolm Jones  
interviewing  
Willie Nelson

It's nice to know people are going to come and hear you sing and hear you play. That's sort of the mystique of the whole thing. People work all day, and they they get in their car and they drive somewhere to go hear somebody sing, and applaud and sing along with 'em. And there's a therapy there, an exchange, an energy exchange that takes place between the audience and the performer, and it's pretty magical really, to both the audience and the entertainer.

--Willie Nelson

My theory about creativity is that the more money one has, the more creative one can be.

--Robert Mapplethorpe

The thrill of being caught up in rare and rigorous communion, not just with a composer's creation but with other voices, is contagious.

--Ann Hulbert

If you want to be a doctor, a lawyer you must go to college. But if you want to be a musician or such, study your craft. Study music.

--Billy Eckstine

A work of art that one has to explain fails...its mission.

--Henry James

People are willing to take these extraordinary chances to become writers, musicians or painters, and because of them, we have a culture. If this ever stops, our culture will die, because most of our culture, in fact, has been created by people that got paid nothing for it--people like Edgar Allan Poe, Vincent van Gogh or Mozart.

--Kurt Vonnegut

Some of the best songs I've written, I've written in 10 minutes.

--Christine McVie

Julie Landsman...was playing principal French horn for the Metropolitan Opera, in New York. When she'd finished her blind audition for that role, years earlier, she knew immediately that she'd won. Her last note was so true, and she held it so long, that she heard delighted peals of laughter break out among the evaluators on the other side of the screen. But when she came out to greet them, she heard a gasp. Landsman had played with the Met before, but only as a substitute. The evaluators knew her, yet only when they weren't aware of her gender—only, that is, when they were forced to make not a personal evaluation but an impersonal one—could they hear how brilliantly she played.

--Don Peck

Genius gives birth, talent delivers.

--Jack Kerouac

Creativity is intelligence having fun.

--Albert Einstein

Music, particularly the blues, is the only form of schizophrenia that has organised itself into being both legal and beneficial to society.

--Alexis Korner

A painter paints his pictures on canvas. But musicians paint their pictures on silence. We provide the music, and you provide the silence.

--Leopold Stokowski

One of the reasons we listen to music is because it's lovely to hear. The sounds are lovely to hear....A musician might play 100 shows a year and play the same song over and over and over again, and every time they get on stage, that song is a little different. It might go a little faster; it might go a little slower. They might decide to do a little improv riff in the middle of the chorus in a way that they don't usually do. One night they might ask the audience to sing along. There's a huge element of what parts are subject to change based on the room, the people that are in the room, the mood of the artist, the mood of the audience. All of those things are flexible.

--Sarah Kay

Jazz is known all over the world as an American musical art form and that's it. No America, no jazz. I've seen people try to connect it to other countries, for instance to Africa, but it doesn't have a damn thing to do with Africa.

--Art Blakey

I don't care what people do. I don't care how people remember my albums. I do them for my own reasons.

--Fiona Apple

I'm probably writing music now for the same reason as I started writing songs when I was 14—to meet women.

--Billy Joel

Talent is an accident of genes - and a responsibility.

--Alan Rickman

My heart, which is so full to overflowing, has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary.

--Martin Luther

Happiness... it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort.  
--Vincent Van Gogh

When you sing gospel you have a feeling there is a cure for what's wrong.  
--Mahalia Jackson

As a guitar player, you can gravitate to the blues because you can play it easily. It's not a style that's difficult to pick up. It's purely emotive and dead easy to get a start with.

--Boz Scaggs

Any real record person knows that the number one most powerful marketing tool when it comes to music is repetition.

--Nile Rodgers

The mind and the voice by themselves are not sufficient.  
--Mahalia Jackson

If you truly dig what you are doing, if you lay it out that way, nobody can not respond. That's what rock and roll is; it's relentless.  
--Cass Elliot

Reflecting his sedentary, ironic personality, Lennon's melodies tend to move up and down as little as possible, weaving deviously through their harmonies in chains of repeated notes...McCartney's lines, by contrast, display his extrovert energy and optimism, ranging freely across the stave in scalar steps and wide intervals.  
--Ian MacDonald

'I Want to Hold Your Hand' (1963) Going above all for impact, it makes no attempt at sustained melody, moving instead in half-bar phrases governed by its fourth-dominated harmony, the result of two writers competing with each other side by side at the same piano.

--Ian MacDonald

'Good Morning Sunshine' (1967) Rhythmically unruly, the track proceeds in a clumsy sideways gallop lashed on by mighty pugilistic smashes on the crash cymbal.  
--Ian MacDonald

A malignant rot has spread through the Western mind since the mid-Seventies: the virus of meaninglessness. The '60s were the 'last gasp of the Western soul.' The Beatles were not to blame, but, being 'perfect McLuhanites,' they allowed it all, gleefully, to rush through them. And now? 'Radically disunited, we live dominated by and addicted to gadgets, our *raison d'être* and sense of community unfixably broken.

--Ian MacDonald

Where painting is weakest, namely, in the expression of the highest moral and spiritual ideas, there music is sublimely strong.

--Harriet Beecher Stowe

Brazilian music has many of the ingredients that I strive for in my own music: Strong melodies and a disciplined but intense rhythmic concept, and interesting harmonies.

--Chuck Mangione

I'm not one for walking the beaches humming a melody. I love the discipline of sitting in the studio, writing and listening. That is my domain.

--Enya

In rap music, even though the element of poetry is very strong, so is the element of the drum, the implication of the dance. Without the beat, its commercial value would certainly be more tenuous.

--Archie Shepp

When you record, you live with what you recorded for many, many years, but when you play it's just an hour and a half and then once it's over it's over.

--Keren Ann

I think this confusion leads intellectuals and artists themselves to believe that the elite arts and humanities are a kind of higher, exalted form of human endeavor.

--Steven Pinker

You know...that a blank wall is an appalling thing to look at. The wall of a museum -- a canvas -- a piece of film -- or a guy sitting in front of a typewriter. Then, you start out to do something -- that vague thing called creation. The beginning strikes awe within you.

--Edward Steichen

I'd say that it's important for music to be there that gives you a challenge, that re-arranges things in your head.

--Tom Jenkinson

Truly fertile Music, the only kind that will move us, that we shall truly appreciate, will be a Music conducive to Dream, which banishes all reason and analysis. One must not wish first to understand and then to feel. Art does not tolerate Reason.

--Albert Camus

The best music is essentially there to provide you something to face the world with.

--Bruce Springsteen

Canned music is like audible wallpaper.

--Alistair Cooke

Paul [McCartney] was meticulous and organized: he always carried a notebook around with him, in which he methodically wrote down lyrics and chord changes in his neat handwriting. In contrast, John [Lennon] seemed to live in chaos: he was constantly searching for scraps of paper that he'd hurriedly scribbled ideas on. Paul was a natural communicator; John couldn't articulate his ideas well. Paul was the diplomat; John was the agitator. Paul was soft-spoken and almost unfailingly polite; John could be a right loudmouth and quite rude. Paul was willing to put in long hours to get a part right; John was impatient, always ready to move on to the next thing. Paul usually knew exactly what he wanted and would often take offense at criticism; John was much more thick-skinned and was open to hearing what others had to say. In fact, unless he felt especially strongly about something, he was usually amenable to change.

--Geoff Emerick

Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

--Martin Luther

No flower of art ever fully blossomed save it was nourished by tears of agony.

--Isadora Duncan

Back of every creation, supporting it like an arch, is faith. Enthusiasm is nothing: it comes and goes. But if one believes, then miracles occur.

—Henry Miller

Self-consciousness is the enemy of all art, be it acting, writing, painting or living itself, which is the greatest art of all. Creativity, at heart, is the essence of man's being.

—Ray Bradbury

When the big day finally arrived, I was suddenly paralyzed; I could never be a performer myself...As I watched her performing the piece...she looked tiny and brave at the piano—my heart ached with a kind of indescribable pain.

--Amy Chua

That's the motivation of an artist - to seek attention of some kind.

—James Taylor

Aesthetic matters are fundamental for the harmonious development of both society and the individual.

—Friedrich Schiller

For me, singing sad songs often has a way of healing a situation. It gets the hurt out in the open into the light, out of the darkness.

—Reba McEntire

Timing and arrogance are decisive factors in the successful use of talent.

—Marya Mannes

Music is at once the product of feeling and knowledge, for it requires from its disciples, composers and performers alike, not only talent and enthusiasm, but also that knowledge and perception which are the result of protracted study and reflection.

—Alban Berg

Musicians want to be the loud voice for so many quiet hearts.

—Billy Joel

Music is the effort we make to explain to ourselves how our brains work. We listen to Bach transfixed because this is listening to a human mind.

—Lewis Thomas

The mathematics of rhythm are universal. They don't belong to any particular culture.

—John McLaughlin

I'm not interested in having an orchestra sound like itself. I want it to sound like the composer.

—Leonard Bernstein

Art is how we decorate space; music is how we decorate time.

—Unknown

Every man's work, whether it be literature, or music or pictures or architecture or anything else, is always a portrait of himself.

—Samuel Butler

See deep enough, and you see musically; the heart of nature being everywhere music, if you can only reach it.

—Thomas Carlyle

Caroling is proof you're not even safe from Christmas music inside your own home.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Pachelbel's Canon (or Canon in D) is the name commonly given to that song at weddings.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a gifted 18th century Viennese composer whose works remain highly influential with sleeping infants.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

A lot of the greatest compositions were made famous by Sinatra.

—Michael Bolton

Music is the vernacular of the human soul.

—Geoffrey Latham

Most of the people who act and sing do so for their own pleasure and that of their friends and family.

—Kate Smith

Let us go singing as far as we go: the road will be less tedious.

—Virgil

Fear of the love song, of its emotional extremity, has been a historical constant. The Romans defended themselves with jadedness and sex-obsession: their love songs were rather trivial. The early medieval Christians were nearly phobic: the very presence of love songs in their culture has to be inferred from the amount of denunciations such songs received from the pulpit. But as the priests volleyed and thundered, the love song was approaching one of its great flowerings, in the upward-flying utterances of those strolling love-loonies, the troubadours. Lean out the window, golden hair; my heart is in bondage and my lute is on fire.

—James Parker

I have never acknowledged the difference between serious music and light music. There is only good music and bad music.

—Kurt Weill

Music makes one feel so romantic—at least it always gets on one’s nerves—which is the same thing nowadays.

—Oscar Wilde

There’s nobody like Björk: design freak, beat-hunter, womb of experimentation—a pop star with the soul of a poet. From child-prodigious beginnings in her native Iceland, she graduated through druidic punkery (K.U.K.L.) and twinkling indie pop (the Sugarcubes) into a solo career that, over two-plus decades, has looped exotically in an out of the mainstream, towing in its wake orchestras, technologies, fashion concepts, futuristic collaborators, and spectacular videos....And then there’s her voice, which is wide-mouthed, world-mouthed, from its loudest Horn of Gondor vowel-blast to its more confiding little earthy grumble and nymphic muttering. Plastic, lullabistic, bubblicious, vocabulary-disrupting—I can’t imagine pop music without it.

—James Parker

Always think that in any area of the arts, you get maybe ten percent of people who are creative, original... and the rest are generally following on, copying.

—Hugh Hopper

A composer knows that music is written by human beings for human beings and that music is a continuation of life, not something separated from it.

—Hanns Eisler

Every man's work, whether it be literature, or music or pictures or architecture or anything else, is always a portrait of himself.

—Samuel Butler

No opera plot can be sensible, for people do not sing when they are feeling sensible.

—W. H. Auden

Though everything else may appear shallow and repulsive, even the smallest task in music is so absorbing, and carries us so far away from town, country, earth, and all worldly things, that it is truly a blessed gift of God.

—Felix Mendelssohn

I do a so-called trip into myself: I sit down at the piano and the melody might start to evolve from my playing or then I might start to sing it.

—Enya

Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul for the education of its virtue.

—Plato

Music, verily, is the mediator between intellectual and sensuous life... the one incorporeal entrance into the higher world of knowledge which comprehends mankind but which mankind cannot comprehend.

—Ludwig van Beethoven

If they're singing about heartbreak, they've lived it.

—Paula Abdul

The way I feel about music is that there is no right and wrong. Only true and false.

—Fiona Apple

The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark.

—Agnes de Mille

I've never known a musician who regretted being one. Whatever deceptions life may have in store for you, music itself is not going to let you down.

—Virgil Thomson

Music therapists who work with Alzheimer's patients describe seeing people 'wake up' when the sounds of loved and familiar music fills their heads. Often, after months or even years of not speaking at all, they begin to talk again, become more social and seem more engaged by their surroundings. Some begin to remember names long forgotten. Some even do what Alzheimer's patients often cannot do as their disease worsens: They remember who they are.

—Mary Ellen Geist

The lyrics of popular music have always played a major role in the construction of reality, particularly in the area of romance and love, and have influenced such associated constructs as masculinity, femininity, and the relationship between the sexes. These constructs are enhanced and intensified by the elements of rock video. The music contains melodic catch phrases called 'hooks,' the images are slickly designed, and the length, only three minutes on average, limits the images to intense flashes and impression. The result is a product that tends towards a construct that often reinforces sex roles, legitimizes violence, and stereotypes race as well.

—*Canadian Ministry of  
Education*

I wanted to make somebody feel like Coltrane made me feel, listening to it.

—Wynton Marsalis

It seems that jazz is more cerebral and more mathematical in a sense.

—Rita Coolidge

Music, I feel, must be emotional first and intellectual second.

—Maurice Ravel

As far as I'm concerned, blues and jazz are the great American contributions to music.

—Edgar Winter

You can fill this table up with people who are racist, homophobic, Satanist worshippers, sexist and we can be arguing but if you put on a song, I guarantee that people will stop and listen and that's what I love about music, it can bring people together.

—Charles King

Every child is an artist until he's told he's not an artist.

—John Lennon

A friend of mine once told me that I can't screw up when I play my own music. I also take voice lessons, play other peoples' songs out of music books, and occasionally figure out how to play other people's music from records. This keeps my ears, fingers, and mind working.

—Lisa Loeb

There would be no great Western music, and certainly no decent choral repertoire, without the Catholic faith.

—Richard Morris

The music is a personal expression, like art. It is something that you like doing that comes from within, and is an expression that comes from God. That is why artists are beautiful and why people who copy are not really artistic.

—Michael Schenker

The monotony and solitude of a quiet life stimulates the creative mind.

—Albert Einstein

Jazz is a very democratic musical form. It comes out of a communal experience. We take our respective instruments and collectively create a thing of beauty.

—Max Roach

I don't know any musician who got to the top without hard work. Take whoever you want. They all work bloody hard, harder than you think.

—Gavin Rossdale

Jazz is the folk music of the machine age.

—Paul Whiteman

When I found the music of Monk I finally found music that fit that horn. Every one of his tunes fit it perfectly.

—Steve Lacy

Bob Dylan is out of the mentorship of Allen Ginsberg.

—Peter Fonda

When people say, 'Stop living in the past,' my thought in return is, 'But the music was so much better then!'

—*someecards*

I have sung to large crowds since then, and there is a feeling that once you get over 100,000 people, you kind of lose the control element, you don't know if you are really getting through or not.

—Joe Cocker

Music is essentially useless, as life is.

—George Santayana

I think Mozart's operas *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* are the two most perfect ever written. The music is magical. The sextet in *The Marriage* is the most hilarious piece in all of opera. And *Don Giovanni* has the most seductive duet, 'Là ci darem la mano,' sung when the Don attempts to seduce Zerlina.

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg

One thing is true: While the recording medium may constantly change, one thing won't—our love of listening to it. It's been a constant since Edison first produced his scratchy recordings on tinfoil. Even he seems to have intuited the power of that invention. Edison was once asked, of your thousand-fold patents, which is your favorite invention? 'I like the phonograph best,' he replied.

—Clive Thompson

A handful of people, a crazily high percentage of them middle-aged Scandinavian men, write most of America's pop hits. It is an open yet closely guarded secret, protected jealously by the labels and the performers themselves, whose identities are as carefully constructed as their songs and dances. The illusion of creative control is maintained by the fig leaf of a songwriting credit. The performer's name will often appear in the list of songwriters, even if his or her contribution is negligible. (There's a saying for this in the music industry: 'Change a word, get a third.') But almost no pop celebrities write their own hits. Too much is on the line for that, and being a global celebrity is a full-time job. It would be like Will Smith writing the next *Independence Day*.

—Nathaniel Rich

A short-attention-span culture demands short-attention-span songs. The writers of Tin Pan Alley and Motown had to write only one killer hook to get a hit. Now you need a new high every seven seconds—the average length of time a listener will give a radio station before changing the channel.

—Nathaniel Rich

It is a business as old as Stephen Foster, but never before has it been run so efficiently or dominated by so few. We have come to expect this type of consolidation from our banking, oil-and-gas, and health-care industries. But the same practices they rely on—ruthless digitization, outsourcing, focus-group brand testing, brute-force marketing—have been applied with tremendous success in pop, creating such profitable multinationals as Rihanna, Katy Perry, and Taylor Swift.

—Nathaniel Rich

Sonically, the template has remained remarkably consistent since the Backstreet Boys, whose sound was created by Max Martin and his mentor, Denniz PoP, at PoP's Cheiron Studios, in Stockholm. It was at Cheiron in the late '90s that they developed the modern hit formula, a formula nearly as valuable as Coca-Cola's....The music is manufactured to fill not headphones and home stereo systems but malls and football stadiums. It is a synthetic, mechanical sound....There are no musicians anymore, at least not human ones. Every instrument is automated. Session musicians have gone extinct, and studio mixing boards remain only as retro, semi-ironic furniture. The songs are written industrially as well, often by committee and in bulk. Anything short of a likely hit is discarded. The constant iteration of tracks, all produced by the same formula, can result in accidental imitation—or, depending on the jury, purposeful replication.

—Nathaniel Rich

Pop hit-makers frequently flirt with plagiarism, with good reason: Audiences embrace familiar sounds. Sameness sells.

—Nathaniel Rich

I don't think you can replace great themes. But I think people do want to hear fresh arrangements of them. They don't want to hear them played the same way all the time.

—Stan Kenton

Influences are enriching, and they can be found in every work of art, even the most original.

—Lukas Foss

No matter what you do for a living all we have is music to get through certain situations.

—Deana Carter

The biggest killer on the planet is stress, and I think the best medicine is and always will be music.

—Unknown

Music can cure things medication never will

—*sun-gazing.com*

Some people have lives; some people have music.

—John Green

Yes, fractals are what I want to find in my music.

—Gyorgy Ligeti

I believe that music is connected by human passions and curiosities rather than by marketing strategies.

—Elvis Costello

Studying the piano made a good boy out of a bad one. It took the piano to tone me down.

—George Gershwin

The greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it.

—William James

Music is an agreeable harmony for the honor of God and the permissible delights of the soul.

—Johannes Sebastian  
Bach

If they can't hum it after we play it, it's not for us.

—Lawrence Welk

When Alexander the Great visited Diogenes and asked whether he could do anything for the famed teacher, Diogenes replied 'Only stand out of my light.' Perhaps some day we shall know how to heighten creativity. Until then, one of the best things we can do for creative men and women is to stand out of their light.

—John W. Gardner

Jazz music is an intensified feeling of nonchalance.

—Francoise Sagan

Sometimes music is the only thing that gets your mind off of everything else.

—Unknown

Once you're successful with a certain kind of music, it's hard not to have faith in it as a means to stay successful.

—Roberta Flack

The great rock lyric is not a poem or a story, still less an idea. It's a shard, a shrug, a shout, the leading edge of an instant.

—James Parker

Just as my fingers on these keys  
Make music, so the self-same sounds  
On my spirit make a music too.

Music is feeling, then, not sound;  
And thus it is that what I feel,  
Here in this room, desiring you,

Thinking of your blue-shadowed silk,  
Is music.

—Wallace Stevens

Concert Hall: A temple where the dead will never die.

—Dan L. Miller

When you're happy, you enjoy the music. When you're sad, you understand the lyrics.

—Ged Backland

I like music because it's the only invisible art form.

—Sean Lennon

James Bond has a license to kill, rockstars have a license to be outrageous. Rock is about grabbing people's attention.

—Gene Simmons

One of the best accounts of the creative process, of the way in which the parts become related to each other and to an envisaged whole, occurs in a letter sometimes attributed to Mozart: 'My ideas come as they will, I don't know how, all in a stream. If I like them I keep them in my head, and people say that I often hum them over to myself. Well, if I can hold on to them, they begin to join on to one another, as if they were bits that a pastry cook should joint together in his pantry. And now my soul gets heated, and if nothing disturbs me the piece grows larger and brighter until, however long it is, it is all finished at once in my mind, so that I can see it at a glance, as if it were a pretty picture or a pleasing person. Then I don't hear the notes one after another, as they are hereafter to be played, but it is as if in my fancy they were all at once. And that *is* a revel (*das ist nun ein Schmaus*). While I'm inventing, it all seems to me like a fine vivid dream; but that hearing it all at once (when the invention is done), that's the best. What I have once so heard I forget not again, and perhaps this is the best gift that God has granted me.'

—Cleanth Brooks and  
Robert Penn  
Warren

So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music in some living form will accompany and sustain it and give it expressive meaning.

—Aaron Copland

Punk was defined by an attitude rather than a musical style.

—David Byrne

The more you do it, whatever you do, the better you become at it. And if you love it, you become even better.

—Sergio Aragonés

Toil without song is like a weary journey without an end.

—H. P. Lovecraft

My art springs from my desire to have things in the world which would otherwise never be there.

—Carl Andre

Whoever absorbs a work of art into himself goes through the same process as the artist who produced it—only he reverses the order of the process and increases its speed.

—Friedrich Hebbel

I have spent a good many years since—too many, I think—being ashamed about what I write. I think I was forty before I realized that almost every writer of fiction and poetry who has ever published a line has been accused by someone of wasting his or her God-given talent. If you write (or paint or dance or sculpt or sing, I suppose), someone will try to make you feel lousy about it, that's all. I'm not editorializing, just trying to give you the facts as I see them.

—Stephen King

Life isn't a support-system for art. It's the other way around.

—Stephen King

Talent renders the whole idea of rehearsal meaningless; when you find something at which you are talented, you do it (whatever *it* is) until your fingers bleed or your eyes are ready to fall out of your head. Even when no one is listening (or reading, or watching), every outing is a bravura performance, because you as the creator are happy. Perhaps even ecstatic.

—Stephen King

We can't exist by ourselves. We might sound fantastic in the rehearsal and who even knows? Only the band. We need the final ingredient, which, for the Rolling Stones, is the audience. It's that give-and-take: We take energy from them, then give it back. It's a two-way street.

—Keith Richards

Artists who do not love their art are more numerous, and more unhappy, than we think.

—Logan Pearsall Smith

When I am feeling well and in good humour, thoughts come in swarms and with marvelous ease. Once I catch my air, another comes soon to join it, according to the requirements of the whole composition. Then my mind kindles—the work grows—I keep hearing it and bring it out more and more clearly, and the composition ends by being completely executed in my mind, however long it may be.

—Wolfgang Amadeus  
Mozart

Life has at last been perfectly formed and measured to man's requirements; and in art man knows himself truly the master of his existence. It is this sense of mastery which gives man that raised and delighted consciousness of self which art provokes.

—Lascelles Abercrombie

In every human being there is the artist, and whatever his activity, he has an equal chance with any to express the result of his growth and his contact with life...I don't believe any real artist cares whether what he does is 'art' or not. Who, after all, knows what is art? I think the real artists are too busy with just being and growing and acting (on canvas or however) like themselves, to worry about the end. This end is what it will be. The object is intense living, fulfillment, the great happiness in creation.

—Robert Henri

Rock musicians, and a vast array of popular-music musicians, due to their wealth, acquired through the mass of their notoriety, are able to be listened to and heard and thus are able to effect change on an international level.

—Bill Dixon

In its beginnings, music was merely chamber music, meant to be listened to in a small space by a small audience.

—Gustav Mahler

The easiest kind of relationship for me is with ten thousand people. The hardest is with one.

—Joan Baez

She [Joan Baez] is the Madonna of the disaffected. She is the pawn of the protest movement. She is the unhappy analysand. She is the singer who would not train her voice, the rebel who drives the Jaguar too fast, the Rima who hides with the birds and the deer. Above all, she is the girl who 'feels' things, who has hung on to the freshness and pain of adolescence, the girl ever wounded, ever young.

—Joan Didion

She [Joan Baez] does try, perhaps unconsciously, to hang on to the innocence and turbulence and capacity for wonder, however ersatz or shallow, of her own or of anyone's adolescence. This openness, this vulnerability, is of course precisely the reason why she is so able to 'come through' to all the young and lonely and inarticulate, to all those who suspect that no one else in the world understands about beauty and hurt and love and brotherhood.

—Joan Didion

It is through creating, not possessing, that life is revealed.

—Vida D. Scudder

In Europe, people in the arts are considered part of the intelligentsia; they are considered part of the elite.

—Ron Silver

I know what I have given you. I do not know what you have received.

—Antonio Porchia

Social topics may hit too close to home for people, but then again, if you pull a heartstring, then that's what country music is. It's not just songs about getting drunk and leaving your girl.

—Kenny Chesney

You're creating an intimacy that everybody feels, that it's their experience, not yours. I'll never introduce a song and say, now this song is about 'my' broken heart.

—Diana Krall

I don't spend a lot of time thinking of what they'll do musically, I try to imagine being locked into a windowless room with this person for twelve hours at a time. If you can look at that and think it might be fun then maybe you've got the right musician.

—Leo Kottke

Blessed are the weird people poets, misfits, writers, mystics, painters and troubadours for they teach us to see the world through different eyes.

—Jacob Nordby

Music, when soft voices die,  
Vibrates in the memory.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

Music to me is like breathing—I don't get tired of breathing, I don't get tired of music.

—Ray Charles

Singing in a choir is an absolutely unique experience. It is one of the most important things in the world. Where else do you have everyone doing the same thing at the same time without the use of special equipment and for a greater purpose, and no one is sitting on the bench?

—Unknown

Being a musician isn't some kind of hobby. Collecting stamps is a hobby. Being a musician is a way of life, it's who you are inside.

—Unknown

Any musician who tells you that it's always fun is either lying to you or hasn't been a musician very long. The truth is being a musician won't always be easy or be fun, but it will ALWAYS be worth it. It's a life very well spent.

—Unknown

If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children's education.

—Yo-Yo Ma

When someone pursues music through your music, that's the greatest accolade anybody can get.

—Rick Springfield

Respect the masterpiece. It is true reverence to man. There is no quality so great, none so much needed now.

—Frank Lloyd  
Wright

Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working.

--Pablo Picasso

Electric Miles [Davis] grabs us in three ways: musically, symbolically, and politically. Musically, because Miles was channeling Jimi Hendrix, Sly Stone, and the tearing noise at the edge of a James Brown scream, while sounding nothing like any of them. Symbolically, because the music represented creativity at full tilt, at a pitch of invention almost indistinguishable from the destruction (aesthetic and, as it also turn out, personal) necessary to establish its conditions. And politically, because Miles was a militantly autonomous black artist, a whitey-scorning, Uncle Tom—excoriating, no-shit-taking man of his time—and this music [*Bitches Brew*], above all, was his statement.

—James Parker

The tango is really a combination of many cultures, though it eventually became the national music of Argentina.

—Yo-Yo Ma

A symphony is a stage play with the parts written for instruments instead of for actors.

—Colin Wilson

Music is the prow of popular culture.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Great music is a physical storm, agitating to fathomless depths the mystery of the past within.

--Paul Elmer More

The guitar is a much more efficient machine than a computer. More responsive.

—Colin Greenwood

I don't think I'm really so unique. If every black person looked at their life they would quickly discover that they have been influenced by every type of music prevalent in America.

—Roy Ayers

I wouldn't listen to the naysayers and haters. Who cares? The people who succeed are the people who don't quit.

—Cyndi Lauper

For years she [Cyndi Lauper] sang for cover bands but was routinely fired....'I was told I moved too much on the stage,' Lauper remembers. 'Why couldn't I just stand still and sing?' The rejection not only increased her resolve; it also sparked a lifelong belief that early stumbles can lead to later success. 'Who knows what I would be doing if I had been successful in cover bands?' she asks, arching one brow.

—Judith Newman

I am a musician. We are the people that stay up half the night to finish that song we can't get out of our heads. We are typically misunderstood and always underpaid. We spend more time packing, driving, setting up, tearing down and unpacking vans full of gear than we do on stage playing. But we bring entertainment, healing, love, and passion to a world that desperately needs it, and I wouldn't change a thing.

—[www.musiciansunite.com](http://www.musiciansunite.com)

Rock journalism is people who can't write interviewing people who can't talk for people who can't read.

--Frank Zappa

I did my work slowly, drop by drop. I tore it out of me by pieces.

—Maurice Ravel

The blues is an antipsychotic to keep my people from losing their minds. It started with the moans and groans of agony, the slave roots of it all. 'There's a man goin' 'round takin' names! There's a man goin' 'round takin' names!' Even their simplest songs were coded communications such that we could have a conversation and the master would never be the wiser. 'Big boss man, can't you hear me when I call?/You ain't so big, you just tall, that's just about all.' If Jimmy Reed had said to his boss, 'I won't put up with this, I'm through, he would've been dead before dark. Jimmy Reed got people to buy a record where he's saying something he woulda gotten killed for saying in real life. That means the blues is some bad stuff.

—Redd Velvet

Rock arouses and pumps up; it is intense and rebellious. R&B soothes and often seduces; its lyrics tend to be externally focused. Blues is more introspective and complex; its lyrics tend toward describing one's internal state.

—Susan Rogers

Take the sum of human achievement in action, in science, in art, in literature—subtract the work of the men above forty, and while we should miss great treasures, even priceless treasures, we would practically be where we are today....The effective, moving, vitalizing work of the world is done between the ages of twenty-five and forty.

--Sir William Osler

I only know two pieces; one is 'Clair de Lune' and the other one isn't.

—Victor Borge

Teenagers dominated the mid-20th century (the term was invented only in the 1930s), and no one gave them more visibility than Elvis Presley, who began his own career at 18. He embodied the teen desire for liberation from their parents' culture and mirrored their more open sexuality, as he gave youth everywhere in the world music to call their own.

—Paula Fass

Being in front of all these people staring at you and it helps you to dig down and become more emotional and get lost in it as you're feeding on people's energy.

—Fred Durst

My dark sound could be heard across a room clearer than somebody with a reedy sound. It had more projection. My sound always seemed to fill a room.

—Stan Getz

All the sounds of the earth are like music.

—Oscar Hammerstein

I think Stevie Wonder could sing the phone book and manage to make me cry.

—Brad Delp

I don't really have time to sit down and write. But when I think of a melody, I call up my answering machine and sing it, so I won't forget it.

—Britney Spears

I don't think anyone starts doing creative work because they're serving humanity. They want to get laid; they want to get money; they want to get attention.

—Richard Gere

Bands are like people. They're born and then they die.

—Mary Timony

It's May 29, 1913, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris: the premiere of Stravinsky's ballet *Le Sacre du Printemps*, with choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky. A bassoon plays a brief wooing motif, then the orchestra condenses into heavy-metal downstrokes, the crouched ballerinas unbend and start bouncing like pagan robots, and boom, the place erupts. Roarings, punch-ups; someone (so goes the legend) challenges someone else to a duel. Scandalized tuxedoed oldsters are having it out with exulting avant-gardists—described by one observer as 'radical Stravinskyites in soft caps.'

—James Parker

To have the sense of creative activity is the great happiness and the great proof of being alive.

—Matthew Arnold

An intellectual snob is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture and not think of The Lone Ranger.

—Billy Connolly

The Arts are fundamental resources through which the world is viewed, meaning is created, and the mind developed. To neglect the contribution of the Arts in education, either through inadequate time, resources, or poorly trained teachers, is to deny children access to one of the most stunning aspects of their culture and one of the most potent means for developing their minds.

—Elliot W. Eisner

The arts celebrate multiple perspectives. One of their large lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.

—Elliot W. Eisner

The curriculum of the school should give the student access to the important cultural tools available through which intelligence can be expanded. Among the most important of these tools are the arts.

--Elliot Eisner

(Because) it is the intellect which dominates schooling...the specifically soul making subjects—literature, drama, music, the visual arts—are progressively ‘de-souled’ as the child progresses through school.

—Dr. Bernie Neville

Casals says music fills him with the wonder of life and the ‘incredible marvel’ of being a human. Ives says it expands his mind and challenges him to be a true individual. Bernstein says it is enriching and ennobling. To me, that sounds like a good cause for making music and the arts an integral part of every child’s education. Studying music and the arts elevates children’s education, expands students’ horizons, and teaches them to appreciate the wonder of life.

—Richard Riley

Music is a means of giving form to our inner feelings, without attaching them to events or objects in the world.

—George Santayana

Writing about music is like dancing about architecture.

—Martin Mull

I'm gonna sound like a greedy, driven, possessed woman, but that's pretty much what you have to be to get ahead. It is still hard for a female to break into this business—we have to work five times harder. You have to think up better things, and you have to go put on a show that costs your butt for the first half of the year until you get paid for it. Women still face a lot of obstacles, and I have done everything in the world to break through.

—Country Singer Reba  
McEntire

We are on the verge of requiring every student in the United States to learn two years of algebra that they will likely never use, but no one is required to learn wellness or parenting. The current standards movement, for all its good intentions, is perilously narrowing our definition of education, to the great harm of not only students but also entire fields of study: the arts, the technical arts and trades, and the social sciences. Gone are excellent vocational programs....Threatened are visual arts, theater, music, and dance programs despite their obvious value. Indeed, there are more musicians in this country than mathematicians, but you would never know it from the work of standards committees.

—Grant Wiggins

The earth has music for those who listen.

—William Shakespeare

The noblest works and foundations have proceeded from childless men.

--Francis Bacon

With the second pair of children I had, I made plenty of time for them. When I'm writing in my music room and they come barging into the room the way kids do, I put the pencil down and ask them what they'd like to do. I walk them to school. We make music together, read together, go to the park. I understand now how quickly children grow up, and I've written so much music in my life, it doesn't matter. What I know now is the time that we have to be with the people closest to us is never enough.

--Philip Glass

A new study shows that singing works better to soothe Baby than talking, even if you don't have the best voice. And some songs work better than others, so lay off the Rihanna!

—[fitpregnancy.com](http://fitpregnancy.com)

The worst feature of a new baby is its mother's singing.

—Kin Hubbard

Watching Italian opera, all those male sopranos screeching, stupid fat couples rolling their eyes about. That's not love, it's just rubbish.

—Peter Shaffer

Music is at once the product of feeling and knowledge, for it requires from its disciples, composers and performers alike, not only talent and enthusiasm, but also that knowledge and perception which are the result of protracted study and reflection.

—Alban Berg

Where talent is a dwarf, self-esteem is a giant.

—John Petit-Senn

I had studied piano since I was 13, but I was surrounded by students who'd been playing since they were 5. I realized I was never going to be anything but mediocre.

—Kevin Kline

Not only are most of our citizens fathomlessly ignorant of the glories of American literature, a fast-growing percentage of our students are no longer taught much about any works of American art, be they novels, paintings, symphonies or ballets.

—Terry Teachout

When I was at school, I wanted to play a piano, and they said, 'No, that's for the classical students.' There's always been this air around pianos, which can very often discourage a young person from having a go.

—Jamie Cullum

People who choose rock and roll as their vocation are usually trying to break free from constraints, to smash things, to stir up a little turmoil in their souls.

—David Brooks

My songs form a kind of biography or diary of my life as they are about people I have loved and people I only knew in my heart, places I have seen only for a moment and places I have lived all my life.

—Justin Hayward

I like to put on hardcore when I have to clean my apartment, which I hate to do, but it's motivational. I like old heavy metal when I'm outside working on my car. Music has definite functions for me.

—Peter Steele

Artistic temperament is the disease that afflicts amateurs.

—Gilbert K. Chesterton

I think it's because I get an audience involved, personally involved in a song—because I'm involved myself. It's not something I do deliberately; I can't help myself. If the song is a lament at the loss of love, I get an ache in my gut, I feel the loss myself, and I cry out the loneliness, the hurt and the pain that I feel.

--Frank Sinatra

On stage I make love to twenty-five thousand people; then I go home alone.

--Janis Joplin

It's hard to start out as an entertainer and end up as a person.

--Joan Baez

In entertainment your last job may be your *last* job.

--Jackie Gleason

Music, dance, painting, and theater are keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment. Children should be handed these keys at an early age. Yet, according to the *Council of Chief State School Officers*, boards of education in only 13 states specified the arts within formal statements of educational goals....A study by George Hardiman and Andra Johnson in *Art Education* found that elementary schools commit only 4 percent of their school week to art instruction, with only a quarter of that provided by trained art teachers. An elementary school that treats the arts as the province of a few gifted children, or views them only as recreation and entertainment, is a school that needs an infusion of soul. Children's imaginations yearn for the chance to transcend the ordinary, to hear and see what they have not heard and seen.

—William J. Bennett

The arts are called liberal, because they enable those who practise them to live in freedom.

--Tirso de Molina

Can anyone capable of genuinely appreciating Mozart and Mizoguchi possibly say that he is not, in that respect, immeasurably better off than someone whose cultural horizon is limited to bingo and The Black and White Minstrel Show? The assimilation will not necessarily make him a better person (a common, and obviously fallacious, assumption), but it will open to him possibilities that are closed to his less fortunate fellow humans. If that is what is meant by an 'élite,' then I for one shall not willingly sacrifice my membership of it in the name of some perverse and destructive egalitarianism: to put it succinctly, nothing is ever going to come between me and *The Magic Flute*. It is not, however, an elite from which I would wish anyone to feel excluded: on the contrary, I would like to share my advantages with as many others as possible. That is why I am a teacher.

—Robin Paul Wood

Three films a day, three books a week and records of great music would be enough to make me happy to the day I die.

—François Truffaut

The human soul needs actual beauty more than bread.

--David Herbert  
Lawrence

Culture is the habit of being pleased with the best and knowing why.

--Henry Van Dyke

Music is the magic dust of movies. *Star Wars* was meant to be a simple hero's journey, a fantasy for young people. Then John [Williams] wrote the music. He raised it to a level of art – popular art that would stand the test of time. What I'm trying to say is, you made my life so easy. I had so many ideas for other movies, but I never got to them because you ensured that *Star Wars* would endure forever.

—George Lucas

Architecture, sculpture, painting, music, and poetry, may truly be called the efflorescence of civilized life.

--Herbert Spencer

Things in which mediocrity is insupportable—poetry, music, painting, public speaking.

--La Bruyère

Once you censor Snoop, why not Public Enemy? Censorship is merely putting a band-aid on cancer. What we should be doing is addressing the deterioration of the community that this music stems from.

--The X-Man, Disc  
Jockey

One problem with the marvelous technology that is emerging to empower our minds and science is that it so often neglects music, art, poetry and drama—that is, the spiritual. Our problems are not just scientific and intellectual. We can know what must be done and how to do it...and still not do it.

--Parker Rossman

A good song is not based on how many people like it, but on how many memories and feelings you get. That's the true beauty about music.

—Unknown

Women do about all the reading and play-going that is done in America; at least they are responsible for most of the play-going, since men mostly 'go along' under their influence. They keep up most of our music, they maintain most of our painting and sculpture, they are the mainstay of our churches, our educational, cultural, and social institutions, they are the arbiters of taste and style for both sexes and in all particulars.

--Henry A. Beers

The poet has one great and rewarding advantage over other practicing artists. When he speaks of his own work, he does so in the same medium, language, in which he wrote. When the composer or sculptor or musician speaks of his own art, he must do so in a medium foreign to the musical tone, color and shape and line with which he created his own art.

--Paul Engle and Joseph  
Langland

Cocktail music is accepted as audible wallpaper.

--Alistair Cooke

It is wise to learn; it is God-like to create.

--John Saxe

Art is a jealous mistress, and if a man has a genius for painting, poetry, music,

architecture or philosophy, he makes a bad husband and an ill provider.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

I don't think creative people generally do what they do to make money. They may get a process going by which money is made, and they realize it's a good idea to keep that going, but I think that if they passed a law tomorrow that no creative person can ever again make any money on his poems, his paintings, his songs, his sculptures, I don't believe you'd see any fewer poems in the world. I think the number of paintings would still continue to flow because people do that because they're able to. They discover this ability in themselves and derive great pleasure from it.

--Steve Allen

An artist lives more passionately, more deeply, with more seeking for life and truth and beauty than any man in the world.

--Charlie Chaplin

Everything great in the world comes from neurotics. They alone have founded our religions and composed our masterpieces. Never will the world know all it owes to them nor all they have suffered to enrich us. We enjoy lovely music, beautiful paintings, a thousand intellectual delicacies, but we have no idea of their cost, to those who invented them, in sleepless nights, tears, spasmodic laughter, rashes, asthma, epilepsies, and the fear of death, which is worse than all the rest.

--Marcel Proust

I think I love and reverence all arts equally only putting my own just above the others; because in it I recognize the union and culmination of my own. To me it seems as if when God conceived the world, that was Poetry; He formed it, and that was Sculpture; He colored it, and that was Painting; He peopled it with living beings, and that was the grand, divine, eternal Drama.

--Charlotte Cushman

The arts are a highway into the soul of the people.

--Arthur Miller

Many composers today don't know what the human throat is.

—Elisabeth Schwarzkopf

If we are to contribute to a livable society, we must strive to assure that poetry exists to temper technology; that music enlivens and enhances our educational growth; that dance and sculpture challenge our imaginations as much as any new scientific discovery.

--Wynetka Ann Reynolds

A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life.

--Johann Wolfgang von  
Goethe

A reasonable capacity to appreciate music and art quite suffices to enrich life and exercise a wholesome influence upon character.

— Edward O. Sisson

Mozart had a sister, whom Mozart called ‘the talented one.’

--Gloria Steinem

Rather than condemn Adele for a few extra pounds, we might just revel in her extraordinary music. (Does anyone care what Jay-Z weighs?)

--Debra Spar

The advice I am giving always to all my students is above all to study the music profoundly... music is like the ocean, and the instruments are little or bigger islands, very beautiful for the flowers and trees.

—Andres Segovia

Almost immediately after jazz musicians arrived in Paris, they began to gather in two of the city’s most important creative neighborhoods: Montmartre and Montparnasse, respectively the Right and Left Bank haunts of artists, intellectuals, poets, and musicians since the late nineteenth century. Performing in these high-profile and popular entertainment districts could give an advantage to jazz musicians because Parisians and tourists already knew to go there when they wanted to spend a night out on the town. As hubs of artistic imagination and experimentation, Montmartre and Montparnasse therefore attracted the kinds of audiences that might appreciate the new and thrilling sounds of jazz. For many listeners, these locations lent the music something of their own exciting aura, and the early success of jazz in Paris probably had at least as much to do with musicians playing there as did other factors.

In spite of their similarities, however, by the 1920s these neighborhoods were on two very different paths, each representing competing visions of what France could become after the war. And the reactions to jazz in each place became important markers of the difference between the two areas and visions. Montmartre was leg-

endary as the late-nineteenth-century capital of 'bohemian Paris,' where French artists had gathered and cabaret songs had filled the air. In its heyday, Montmartre was one of the centers of popular entertainment, and its artists prided themselves on flying in the face of respectable middle-class values. But by the 1920s, Montmartre represented an established artistic tradition, not the challenge to bourgeois life that it had been at the fin de siècle. Entertainment culture was rapidly changing both in substance and style in the postwar era, and a desire for new sounds, including foreign music and exotic art, was quickly replacing the love for the cabarets' French chansons. Jazz was not entirely to blame for such changes, of course. Commercial pressures, especially the rapidly growing tourist trade, eroded the popularity of old Montmartre cabarets, which were not always able to compete with the newer music halls and dance halls. Yet jazz bore much of the criticism from those who saw the changes in Montmartre as the death of French popular entertainment. Montparnasse, on the other hand, was the face of a modern Paris. It was the international crossroads where an ever changing mixture of people celebrated, rather than lamented, cosmopolitanism and exoticism in all its forms, especially in jazz bands. These different attitudes within the entertainment districts and their institutions reflected the impact of the broader trends at work in Paris—the influx of foreign populations, for example, or the advent of cars and electricity on city streets as indicators of modern technology—and the possible consequences for French culture. Jazz was at the confluence of these trends, and it became a convenient symbol for the struggle they represented.

—Jeffrey H. Jackson

I have so many opinions about everything it just comes out during my music. It's a battle for me. I try not to be preachy. That's a real danger.

—Neil Young

Music promotes spiritual, physical and emotional well-being.

—Lailah Gifty Akita

Even the simple act of tuning the radio to a music program can lift our spirits and show the world 'I'm not going to give up.'

—Shirley Corder

Great music stops the inner turmoil of thought and allows the mind to seek its natural state of joy. Music frees our minds and allows us to soar to heights where we can experience the celestial. Music opens our minds to allow the perception of new thoughts of a higher nature, which gives us a spiritual lift, which produces yet more joy.

—Wu Wei

The musician is perhaps the most modest of animals, but he is also the proudest. It is he who invented the sublime art of ruining poetry.

—Erik Satie

Music is organized sound.

—Edgard Varese

If your creation is taking 99% perspiration, it stinks and you need more inspiration.

—Kelly Bryson

Music gives pleasure because your mind keeps predicting what comes next. Each correct prediction triggers dopamine. You can't make good predictions for unfamiliar music, so you don't get the dopamine. But when music is too familiar, something strange happens. You don't get the dopamine either because your brain predicts it effortlessly. To make you happy, music must be at the sweet spot of novelty and familiarity.

—Loretta Graziano  
Breuning

My audience was my life. What I did and how I did it, was all for my audience.

—Cab Calloway

Avant-garde music is sort of research music. You're glad someone's done it but you don't necessarily want to listen to it.

—Brian Eno

I know two kinds of audiences only—one coughing, and one not coughing.

—Artur Schnabel

I wish you music to help with the burdens of life, and to help you release your happiness to others.

—Ludwig van Beethoven

I have a guilt complex about being the one that's so successful when so many of them [other performers] are so much more talented than me. And so many friends that I know in Nashville that have twice the talent that I've had, that I've seen them come and go through the years and never see their dream come true.

—Dolly Parton

The music industry went from trying to make recordings sound as good as a live performance to trying to make live performances sound as good as a record.

—Unknown

When something seems unbalanced and out of rhythm, just a song can tune things up in a moment. The power of music is therapy.

—Anthony Liccione

The power of music, narrative and drama is of the greatest practical and theoretical importance. One may see this even in the case of idiots, with IQs below 20 and the extremest motor incompetence and bewilderment. Their uncouth movements may disappear in a moment with music and dancing—suddenly, with music, they know how to move. We see how the retarded, unable to perform fairly simple tasks involving perhaps four or five movements or procedures in sequence, can do these perfectly if they work to music—the sequence of movements they cannot hold as schemes being perfectly holdable as music, i.e. embedded in music. The same may be seen, very dramatically, in patients with severe frontal lobe damage and apraxia—an inability to do things, to retain the simplest motor sequences and programmes, even to walk, despite perfectly preserved intelligence in all other ways. This procedural defect, or motor idiocy, as one might call it, which completely defeats any ordinary system of rehabilitative instruction, vanishes at once if music is the instructor. All this, no doubt, is the rationale, or one of the rationales, of work songs.

—Oliver Sacks

Great music does not just make me feel good. It means something. It makes us understand. It makes us happy.

—Lukas Foss

In the Rodgers and Hammerstein generation, popular hits came out of shows and movies.

—Stephen Sondheim

Rock and roll was considered by its mid-1950s detractors to be a short-lived pop trend soon to go the way of calypso. Those who feared that rock and roll would break down racial barriers and transform our culture were right. It's been declared dead many times over the past six decades, but the 'fad' survives.

—Holly George-Warren

The rock-and-roll king and his music provided a rallying point for an influential new American teen culture. By tuning in to Elvis's TV performances, buying his records, and mobbing his concerts, teens established themselves as powerful consumers and tastemakers.

—Cynthia Overbeck Bix

I was in the third grade when I bought my first 45—'Strawberry Fields Forever,' with 'Penny Lane' on the flip side. It cost 50 cents at a J.M. Fields department store in North Carolina. I dropped the needle and was transported to another world. I decided to stop eating lunch, saving my money so I could buy records. Music was more important than food. All these years later, I am still skinny, and I'm still collecting records.

—Michael Kurtz

The blues was like that problem child that you may have had in the family. You was a little bit ashamed to let anybody see him, but you loved him. You just didn't know how other people would take it.

—B. B. King

The adagio from Beethoven's 7th Symphony—I think Ludwig pretty much summed up death in this one. You know, he had lost just about all his hearing when he wrote it, and I've often wondered if that didn't help him tune into the final silence of the great beyond.

—Andrew Schneider

Gospel music rhythms are not African in origin, although I know that's what the jazz experts say.

—Mahalia Jackson

Conductors of great symphony orchestras do not play every musical instrument; yet through leadership the ultimate production is an expressive and unified combination of tones.

--Thomas D. Bailey

It is a mistake to think that the practice of my art has become easy to me. I assure you, dear friend, no one has given so much care to the study of composition as I. There is scarcely a famous master in music whose works I have not frequently and diligently studied.

—Wolfgang Amadeus  
Mozart

I had never before thought of how awful the relationship must be between the musician and his instrument. He has to fill it, this instrument, with the breath of life, his own. He has to make it do what he wants it to do. And a piano is just a piano. It's made out of so much wood and wires and little hammers and big ones, and ivory. While there's only so much you can do with it, the only way to find this out is to try; to try and make it do everything.

—James Baldwin

If we were all determined to be the first violin we should never have an ensemble. Therefore, respect every musician in his proper place.

--Robert Shuman

The piano is able to communicate the subtlest universal truths by means of wood, metal and vibrating air.

—Kenneth Miller

The basic function of popular music is to create an environment for courting, love-making, and doing the dishes. It's useful because it addresses the heart in the midst of all these activities, and it will always be useful in this very important way.

—Leonard Cohen

For me, the intellect is always the guide but not the goal of the performance. Three things have to be coordinated, and not one must stick out. Not too much intellect because it can become scholastic. Not too much heart because it can become schmaltz. Not too much technique because you become a mechanic.

—Vladimir Horowitz

I find it incredible impossible not to cry when I hear Stevie Nicks's 'Landslide,' especially the lyric: 'I've been afraid of changing, because I've built my life around you.' I think a good test to see if a human is actually a robot/android/cylon is to have them listen to this song lyric and study their reaction. If they don't cry, you should stab them through the heart. You will find a fusebox.

—Mindy Kaling

The pianoforte is the most important of all musical instruments: its invention was to music what the invention of printing was to poetry.

—George Bernard Shaw

Bob Dylan did the first really long record—*Like A Rolling Stone*—I think it was four minutes.

—Pete Townshend

Sometimes people think that opera is scary or inaccessible or that only certain people go. But I feel it can mean something for everyone: joy, love, escape. It's a moment to share something beautiful with the person next to you, and an orchestra and the people onstage. It brings people together. It transports you, maybe out of something challenging in your life, and puts you in another world. It makes me feel very special to be a part of that—where everybody's in that one moment, experiencing it together.

—Amanda Majeski

Don't pay too much attention to the sounds, or you might miss the music.

—Charles Ives

Music has the power to bring people together like no other art form.

—Michael Franti

Anybody that sings the blues is in a deep pit, yelling for help.

—Mahalia Jackson

There is a world of difference between a Mahler eighth note and a normal eighth note.

—Gustav Mahler

Music is about a beat and a message.

—Casey Kasem

No art form exists in a vacuum. The impressionists were friends and rivals who hung around in the same cafés, shared, traded and borrowed, and pushed one another forward. Dancers learn from dancers. New musical genres develop because artists keep responding to one another.

—Tess Callahan

Advice? Fail constantly. Because the word doesn't mean what you think it means, especially when you're an artist. I use the word artist to mean everything from songwriting to writing a novel to even writing video games. Anything that tells a story, which is almost any medium. Gotta take risks, you gotta go through multiple drafts which means you have to FAIL, a lot. So you won't always get the reaction

you always want from every single person, so when you lose that fear of failure, when you stop even thinking of it as failure, and you push yourself farther, you'll take bigger risks, and eventually, after about six or seven hundred rejections, you'll find success. And you'll find a way of conveying what you really want to say, in the best manner.

—Victor Giannini

The sound of the drum drives out thought; for that very reason it is the most military of instruments.

--Joseph Joubert

I would also like to thank my father who discouraged me from playing the violin at an early age.

—Paul Desmond

Jazz to me is one of the inherent expressions of Negro life in America: the eternal tom-tom beating in the Negro soul—the tom-tom of revolt against weariness in a white world, a world of subway trains, and work, work, work; the tom-tom of joy and laughter, and pain swallowed in a smile.

--Langston Hughes

It is better to create than to be learned; creating is the true essence of life.

—Barthold Georg  
Niebuhr

A child who sings is a happy child.

—Elder Enrique  
Falabella

I have an idea that the only thing which makes it possible to regard this world we live in without disgust is the beauty which now and then men create out of the chaos. The pictures they paint, the music they compose, the books they write, and the lives they lead. Of all these the richest in beauty is the beautiful life. That is the perfect work of art.

—W. Somerset Maugham

It is only in his music, which Americans are able to admire because a protective sentimentality limits their understanding of it, that the Negro in America has been able to tell his story.

--James Baldwin

Lean your body forward slightly to support the guitar against your chest, for the poetry of the music should resound in your heart.

—Andres Segovia

Pulse as an active means of expression, Stravinsky and Beethoven are the two masters of that.

—Esa-Pekka Salonen

How can you sing of amazing grace and all God's wonders without using your hands?

—Mahalia Jackson

The Wedding March always reminds me of the music played when soldiers go into battle.

—Heinrich Heine

I saw music as a way of documenting realities from the urban cities of Latin America.

—Ruben Blades

Music is the expression of the movement of the waters, the play of curves described by changing breezes.

—Claude Debussy

Teens think listening to music helps them concentrate. It doesn't. It relieves them of the boredom that concentration on homework induces.

—Marilyn vos Savant

I think one of the best things you can do, no matter what you play, is to take up piano. Music is based on chord changes and harmonies, and you can get 'em more out of an instrument like piano, where you can hear all the notes at once.

—John Haley Sims

Music is neither old nor modern: it is either good or bad music, and the date at which it was written has no significance whatever.

—Peter Warlock

Throughout history music has exerted an almost mystical effect on us. It creates and triggers thoughts and feelings, stimulating and strengthening memory and cognition.

Music has been shown that it retrains how the brain thinks.

In my opinion, the active study of music may both prevent and correct many of the deficits associated with dementia. It is low-cost and free of the negative side effects of medication. It could significantly reduce the multibillion-dollar medical cost of dementia.

—Patrick B. Massey, MD

Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way.

—Edward de Bono

Those who decide to use leisure as a means of mental development, who love good music, good books, good pictures, good plays, good company, good conversation—what are they? They are the happiest people in the world.

--William Lyon Phelps

A quiet secluded life in the country, with the possibility of being useful to people to whom it is easy to do good, and who are not accustomed to have it done to them; then work which one hopes may be of some use; then rest, nature, books, music, love for one's neighbor — such is my idea of happiness.

—Leo Tolstoy

Show me the home wherein music dwells, and I shall show you a happy, peaceful, and contented home.

--Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

Any musical person who has never heard a Negro congregation under the spell of religious fervor sing these old songs has missed one of the most thrilling emotions which the human heart may experience.

—James Weldon Johnson

Did you ever take pencil and book to scribe down the sounds the wind makes as it sifts and soughs through trees? Each kind of tree is a sort of musical instrument: the apple a cello, the old oak a bass viol, the cypress a harp, the willow a flute, the young pine a muted violin. Put your ear close to the whispering branch and you may catch what it is saying.

--Guy Murchie, Jr.

Artist—musicians, painters, writers, poets, always seem to have had the most accurate perception of what is really going on around them, not the official version or the popular perception of contemporary life.

—Billy Joel

I cannot go to the Opera, because I have forsworn all expense which does not end in pleasing me.

—Charles Townshend

Elvis deserves a lot of credit for bringing the blues to middle America, not the Vegas stuff. The early stuff, The Sun records, and the first few RCA records. He was wonderful, he had the power, the drive, and he was so dedicated to his music.

—Peter Tork

I sure lost my musical direction in Hollywood. My songs were the same conveyor belt mass production, just like most of my movies were.

—Elvis Presley

Historically, musicians know what it is like to be outside the norm—walking the high wire without a safety net. Our experience is not so different from those who march to the beat of different drummers.

—Billy Joel

Someone's got their life together if they can shuffle their music library and never have to skip to find a good song.

—Internet Meme

I find little in the works of Beethoven, Berlioz, Wagner and others when they are led by a conductor who functions like a windmill.

—Franz Liszt

By 75, creativity, originality, and productivity are pretty much gone for the vast, vast majority of us. Einstein famously said, 'A person who has not made his great contribution to science before the age of 30 will never do so.'

—Ezekiel J. Emanuel

Einstein famously said, ‘A person who has not made his great contribution to science before the age of 30 will never do so.’ He was extreme in his assessment. And wrong. Dean Keith Simonton, at the University of California at Davis, a luminary among researchers on age and creativity, synthesized numerous studies to demonstrate a typical age-creativity curve: creativity rises rapidly as a career commences, peaks about 20 years into the career, at about age 40 or 45, and then enters a slow, age-related decline.

—Ezekiel J. Emanuel

It reminds me of a story about the cellist Pablo Casals—he was one of the greatest cellists of the 20th century. He was famous for beginning every day by playing all six Bach unaccompanied cello suites. And someone, Mr. Casals’ wife, said, ‘Why do you insist on playing all six suites each day?’ And he said, ‘Because I think I’m getting better.’

—Kevin Klein

I learned that singing ‘Amazing Grace’ can lift my spirits for hours.

—*seniorresource.com*

If you pour some music on whatever’s wrong, it’ll sure help out.

—Levon Helm

Every creative action disturbs the universe.

—E. L. Konigsburg

When I was younger, studying classical music, I really had to put in the time. Three hours a day is not even nice—you have to put in six.

—Alicia Keys

Literature, although it stands apart by reason of the great destiny and general use of its medium in the affairs of men, is yet an art like other arts. Of these we may distinguish two great classes: those arts, like sculpture, painting, acting, which are representative, or as used to be said very clumsily, imitative; and those, like architecture, music, and the dance, which are self-sufficient, and merely presentative.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Artists should follow their own visions and create whatever they want. That is because it is precisely the variety of those unique visions of the human condition that gives art its true value. While the world knows and loves the dramas of Shakespeare and still recites his sonnets, only historians of the Elizabethan

period can remember the names of the politicians who were his contemporaries. The moral of this story is clear. The value of great art will outlive the political controversies of the moment.

--Playthell Benjamin

## **MOST POPULAR SONGS OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY**

The Sidewalks of New York (1894)  
The Stars and Stripes Forever (1897)  
Sweet Adeline (1903)  
Take Me Out to the Ballgame (1908)  
Sweet Mystery of Life (1910)  
End of a Perfect Day (1910)  
When Irish Eyes are Smiling (1912)  
St. Louis Blues (1914)  
Diana (1925)  
Ol' Man River (1927)  
Stardust (1929)  
Easter Parade (1933)  
God Bless America (1939)  
White Christmas (1942)

—Bennett Cerf

Music really becomes the soundtrack to the major events to your life.

—Sheryl Crow

Jazz is the only music in which the same note can be played night after night but differently each time.

—Ornette Coleman

A pedestrian on Fifty-seventh Street, Manhattan, stopped Jascha Heifetz and inquired, 'Could you tell me how to get to Carnegie Hall?' 'Yes' said Heifetz. 'Practice!'

—Bennett Cerf

An amateur musician was making horrendous sounds on his saxophone in the middle of the night when the outraged landlord burst into his apartment, yanked the instrument out of his hands, and roared, 'Do you know there's a little old lady sick upstairs?' 'I don't think I do,' admitted the amateur. 'Would you mind humming the first few bars of it?'

—Bennett Cerf

Howard Dietz and Arthur Schwartz once accepted a radio job that kept them turning out a new song every day for thirty-nine weeks. ‘Doesn’t it take a lot out of you?’ asked an interviewer. ‘Yes,’ said deeds, ‘but it also takes a lot out of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms.’

—Bennett Cerf

In New York, a five-year-old girl was taken to a concert, warned that she must remain quiet in her seat. She listened respectfully to two intricate pieces, then turned to her mother and asked gravely, ‘Is it all right if I scream now?’

—Bennett Cerf

It's not a special taste. An American composer should have something to say to a cab driver.

—Morton Gould

The great musicians are those who can reach people, who can make people feel something.

—Sam Rivers

Music has a poetry of its own, and that poetry is called melody.

—Joshua Logan

I remember Mitch Miller saying every week, This rock and roll stuff will never last. But one doesn't like to bring that up to Mitch.

—Rosemary Clooney

Piracy is robbery with violence, often segueing into murder, rape and kidnapping. It is one of the most frightening crimes in the world. Using the same term to describe a twelve-year-old swapping music with friends, even thousands of songs, is evidence of a loss of perspective so astounding that it invites and deserves the derision it receives.

--Nick Harkaway

I had four or five years in school training as a soprano. I fell into pop singing because of economics. I got out of high school and had to go work, and they weren't hiring opera singers.

—Jo Stafford

History's greatest composers would be appalled to hear their greatest works reduced to distorted hold music for businesses.

—Michael P. Naughton

Risk is at the heart of jazz. Every note we play is a risk.

—Steve Lacy

Music itself was color-blind but the media and the radio stations segregate it based on their perceptions of the artists.

--Anthony Kiedis

It's so easy to lose faith and become lost in all of the politics of the world. That's why we need the arts. To sublimate our frustration and anger into something beautiful. Freud called sublimation a virtuous defence mechanism because it is in the arts that we can find our humanity.

--Kamand Kojouri

We did not set out to make black music. We set out to make quality music that everyone could enjoy and listen to.

—Smokey Robinson

Jazz is one of the few things that you can go and listen to, I don't care where you're from, what you are, what background you come from—there's something there for you.

—Billy Higgins

Do you think the guy that coined the term 'one hit wonder' ever came up with any other popular phrases?

—Justin Connor

Performing live is the greatest high in the world.

—Toni Braxton

Hammond debuted his first electric organ in 1935, and within three years he had sold more than 1,750 units to churches across America. It was perfect for African-American worshipers who were following the Great Migration up from the South, praying in enclaves without the means for a pipe organ.

The Hammond electrified faith, and electrified the faithful, too, because it had a way of projecting its fervor out onto the streets of America. People took the crazy feelings the Hammond unlocked and blasted them past the church into the rec room, the Jazz club, the honky-tonk. A whole bunch of new feelings, mixing sacred spaces and public places.

—April White

I like listening to good music—and I can't stop playing my album.

—Robbie Williams

I have never in my life made music for money or fame. God walks out of the room when you're thinking about money.

—Quincy Jones

I was always fishing for something on the radio. Just like trains and bells, it was part of the soundtrack of my life. I moved the dial up and down and Roy Orbison's voice came blasting out of the small speakers. His new song, 'Running Scared,' exploded into the room.

Orbison, though, transcended all the genres—folk, country, rock and roll or just about anything. His stuff mixed all the styles and some that hadn't even been invented yet. He could sound mean and nasty on one line and then sing in a falsetto voice like Frankie Valli in the next. With Roy, you didn't know if you were listening to mariachi or opera. He kept you on your toes. With him, it was all about fat and blood. He sounded like he was singing from an Olympian mountaintop and he meant business. One of his previous songs, 'Ooby Dooby' was deceptively simple, but Roy had progressed. He was now singing his compositions in three or four octaves that made you want to drive your car over a cliff. He sang like a professional criminal. Typically, he'd start out in some low, barely audible range, stay there a while and then astonishingly slip into histrionics. His voice could jar a corpse, always leave you muttering to yourself something like, 'Man, I don't believe it.' His songs had songs within songs. They shifted from major to minor key without any logic. Orbison was deadly serious—no pollywog and no fledgling juvenile. There wasn't anything else on the radio like him.

--Bob Dylan

As early as 1930 Schoenberg wrote: 'Radio is an enemy, a ruthless enemy marching irresistibly forward, and any resistance is hopeless'; it 'force-feeds us music . . . regardless of whether we want to hear it, or whether we can grasp it,' with the result that music becomes just noise, a noise among other noises. Radio was the tiny stream it all began with. Then came other technical means for reproducing, prolif-

erating, amplifying sound, and the stream became an enormous river. If in the past people would listen to music out of love for music, nowadays it roars everywhere and all the time, 'regardless whether we want to hear it,' it roars from loudspeakers, in cars, in restaurants, in elevators, in the streets, in waiting rooms, in gyms, in the earpieces of Walkmans, music rewritten, reorchestrated, abridged, and stretched out, fragments of rock, of jazz, of opera, a flood of everything jumbled together so that we don't know who composed it (music become noise is anonymous), so that we can't tell beginning from end (music become noise has no form): sewage-water music in which music is dying.

--Milan Kundera

I had no songs in my repertoire for commercial radio anyway. Songs about debauched bootleggers, mothers that drowned their own children, Cadillacs that only got five miles to the gallon, floods, union hall fires, darkness and cadavers at the bottom of rivers weren't for radiophiles. There was nothing easygoing about the folk songs I sang. They weren't friendly or ripe with mellowness. They didn't come gently to the shore. I guess you could say they weren't commercial.

Not only that, my style was too erratic and hard to pigeonhole for the radio, and songs, to me, were more important than just light entertainment. They were my preceptor and guide into some altered consciousness of reality, some different republic, some liberated republic. Greil Marcus, the music historian, would some thirty years later call it 'the invisible republic.'

Whatever the case, it wasn't that I was anti-popular culture or anything and I had no ambitions to stir things up. I just thought of popular culture as lame as hell and a big trick. It was like the unbroken sea of frost that lay outside the window and you had to have awkward footgear to walk on it.

I didn't know what age of history we were in nor what the truth of it was. Nobody bothered with that. If you told the truth, that was all well and good and if you told the un-truth, well, that's still well and good. Folk songs taught me that.

--Bob Dylan

Some nights I'd sneak out and listen to the radio in my Dad's old Chevy— children need solitude—they don't teach that in school.

--John Geddes

I adored Freddie Mercury, and Queen had a hit called *Radio Gaga*. That's why I love the name. Freddie was unique—one of the biggest personalities in the whole of

pop music. He was not only a singer but also a fantastic performer, a man of the theatre and someone who constantly transformed himself. In short: a genius.

--Lady Gaga

It was darn nigh impossible for women in rock in the 70s. There wasn't a mold if you were a woman and you were in entertainment in the 70s. You were probably a disco diva or a folk singer, or simply ornamental. Radio would play only one woman per hour.

--Ann Wilson

Music has always been a matter of Energy to me, a question of Fuel. Sentimental people call it Inspiration, but what they really mean is Fuel. I have always needed Fuel. I am a serious consumer. On some nights I still believe that a car with the gas needle on empty can run about fifty more miles if you have the right music very loud on the radio.

--Hunter S. Thompson

In the '50s, listening to Elvis and others on the radio in Bombay—it didn't feel alien. Noises made by a truck driver from Tupelo Mississippi, seemed relevant to a middle class kid growing up on the other side of the world. That has always fascinated me.

--Salman Rushdie

When Ke\$ha tries to rap like L'Trimm, she sounds like any ordinary lonely teenage girl stuck in a nowhere town, singing along to her radio and dreaming of a party where she's the star. Ke\$ha's greatness is that in her voice, you can hear both the loser girl and the star. All hail the Queen of Noi\$e!

--Rob Sheffield

I remember auditioning for record labels and having them tell me, 'Well, the country-radio demographic is the thirty-five-year-old female housewife. Give us a song that relates to the thirty-five-year-old female, and we'll talk.'

--Taylor Swift

Most of the time, when I had hits as a soloist—maybe not so much with Simon & Garfunkel—I was surprised they were hits. I didn't know what the hits were. I never thought that 'Loves Me Like a Rock' was going to be a hit, or 'Mother and Child Reunion' or '50 Ways to Leave Your Lover.' They didn't sound like what the hits sounded like at the time. Radio was more open to things that weren't exactly what every other hit was.

--Paul Simon

You certainly don't hear any country music on pop radio today. But for a while you did, and it was a lovely thing to have all the different genres of music cohabitating the Top 40—the folk sound, The Beatles, the British sound, the Motown sounds, that kind of light country—it was a welcome relief after a few hard rock records. Everyone was sharing the airwaves, and I think it was a beautiful time for American music.

--Jimmy Webb

In the early days, Porter Wagoner would not exactly scold me, but he'd say, 'You're writing too many damn verses. You're makin' these songs too damn long.' And I'd say, 'Yeah, but I'm tellin' a story. I have a story tell.' And he'd say, 'Well, you're not going to get in on the radio.' If I start writing a song, I'm writing it for a reason. People would say that I had to have two verses, and a chorus, and a bridge. I tried to learn that formula.

--Dolly Parton

The closest Western Civilization has come to unity since the Congress of Vienna in 1815 was the week the Sgt. Pepper album was released. . . . At the time I happened to be driving across country on Interstate 80. In each city where I stopped for gas or food — Laramie, Ogallala, Moline, South Bend — the melodies wafted in from some far-off transistor radio or portable hi-fi. It was the most amazing thing I've ever heard. For a brief while the irreparable fragmented consciousness of the West was unified, at least in the minds of the young.

--Langdon Winner

Nothing pleases me more than to go into a room and come out with a piece of music.  
—Paul McCartney

By the eighties, a lot of radio stations had started playing 'Sixties' music. They called it 'Classic Rock,' because they know we'd be upset if they came right out and called it what is is, namely 'middle-aged-person nostalgia music.'

--Dave Barry

Jukeboxes, radio and television, going from dawn to dusk, help spread the poison of synthetic, artificial, rhythmical noise.

—Maria Franziska von  
Trapp

We are living in a cultural dark age of musical pollution. You put the radio on, and five minutes later you need an aspirin.

--Vangelis

I could turn on my radio in the morning when I was getting dressed for school and hear Frank Sinatra and Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman and think this is the music. Now that music is art. Ellington is art. At that time it was just what you heard on the radio. Cole Porter was just a guy who wrote pretty songs and Billie Holliday would sing them.

--Woody Allen

Duke Ellington's career traces the entire history of jazz. The repertoire associated with him contains the most important elements in the music and provides concrete examples of some of the best ways to present the music in the widest variety of setting—radio, TV, recordings, movies, concert halls, festivals, solo, small ensemble, big band, symphony orchestra, opera, Broadway shows....You name it, he did it!

--Billy Taylor

Artists are the architects of our future. The messages they deliver through music, film and television are what guides popular culture. If we want to see more love, peace and prosperity in the world, artists must take responsibility and lead.

—Tammy McCrary

Good film, television, or music keeps you awake, anxious for the next movement or act, and wanting more when it is finished.

--John Grooters

The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact that music can make beautiful children.

—Cheryl Lavender

Music is the fourth great material want, first food, then clothes, then shelter, then music.

—Christian Nestell  
Bovee

The prelude to *Tristan and Isolde* reminds me of the Italian painting of the martyr whose intestines are slowly being unwound from his body on a reel.

—Eduard Hanslick

I preferred not to be laden down with a big instrument. If you're behind a guitar, you get used to being behind a guitar, and you don't really perform because you can't. I wanted to be able to just hold on to the mike and sing.

—Stevie Nicks

My personal hobbies are reading, listening to music, and silence.

--Edith Sitwell

James K. Polk's wife, Sarah, was so concerned that the 11th president might enter a room unnoticed, she asked the Marine Band to play 'Hail to the Chief' to get people to turn their head when he arrived.

—John Dickerson

In my opinion, the trombone is the true head of the family of wind instruments, which I have named the 'epic' one. It possesses nobility and grandeur to the highest degree; it has all the serious and powerful tones of sublime musical poetry, from religious, calm and imposing accents to savage, orgiastic outburst. Directed by the will of the master, the trombones can chant like a choir of priests, threaten, utter gloomy sighs, a mournful lament, or a bright hymn of glory; they can break forth into awe-inspiring cries and awaken the dead or doom the living with their fearful voices.

--Hector Berlioz

In pop or rock you can make a fast song or a slow one, but in disco there is really just the one rhythm.

—Giorgio Moroder

Rock was subsequently blessed with the staggering blues exclamations of Janis Joplin in the late '60s and the raw poetic force of Patti Smith in the mid-'70s. Yet no one matched the pure, seductive wallop of Cher.

— Robert Hilburn

I've listened to Willie Nelson all my life but fell love with him in 1992. It happened in a bar in New York City called the Lions Head. One night, I happened to play his version of 'Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain' on the jukebox. A Fred Rose song, it's unspeakably sad—the story of a man mourning his wife and looking forward to meeting her in the next world—and carries echoes of the oldest American music. It's an intimate hillbilly whine. Willie recorded it in 1975 for *Red Headed Stranger*, one of his first million-selling albums. It was among the breakthrough songs that took

Willie from Nashville 1960 into the 1970s and beyond. He found his mature style on that song, realized that he could sing anything and make it new. I'd get drunk on the sort of drinks I figured Willy would order—tequila, beer—line up my quarters and play the song till the men at the rail begged me to stop. When you are 22 and lonely and far from home, you feel sorry for yourself in a way that is the essence of country music. His voice was humorous and sad and full of wisdom.

—Rich Cohen

We were sitting around in the living room, and Willie [Nelson] played some of his songs: 'Night Life,' 'Hello Walls,' 'Crazy—all the great ones. I thought these were the most perfect songs that ever had a right to be written. I thought he was a genius then, and I think the same thing now.

—Bob Dylan

A handful of words, expertly woven into a fierce melody, reveal a plaintive story of crushing disappointment, framed by the strained and aching timbre of John Lennon's voice. I heard 'No Reply' for the first time when I was 10 years old. I got the album Beatles '65 and played in on my little record player with its tweed case, in my bedroom in Casitas Springs, California. It's a song about betrayal. He saw her walk in the door with another man. He's been watching her, but it's not creepy—it's heartbreaking. He is so full of desire that he can't help himself. The shock of finding that you aren't love is the deepest cut.

—Rosanne Cash

Singers are better at 50 than at 25, because a whole life shows up in the voice at 50.

—Ray Charles

Numerous studies have...shown studying and performing music in school has a significantly positive impact on reading, spatial reading, and overall grades. The 'music' effect is not significantly impacted, either, by the social economic level of the district's families.

—Roy S. Johnson

In 2012, students from Birmingham City Schools who took part in music or choral programs earned \$2,336,200 in college scholarships.

—Dr. Debora Mayes

Cher [is] the possessor of one of the huskiest, most distinctive voices in pop ... which can work wonders with the right material directed by the right producer...She spits out the words ... with such conviction you'd think she was delivering an eternal truth about the human condition.

—Paul Simpson

IMAGINATION—the seed of all genius.

—Dan L. Miller

I had to resign myself, many years ago, that I'm not too articulate when it comes to explaining how I feel about things. But my music does it for me, it really does.

—David Bowie

Instrumental music is increasingly marginalized and there's just no outlet, there's no venue for it, in terms of media.

—David Sanborn

The success of Watermark surprised me. I never thought of music as something commercial; it was something very personal to me.

—Enya

Mozart often wrote to his family that certain variations or sections of pieces were so successful that they had to be encored immediately, even without waiting for the entire piece to end.

—Emanuel Ax

Being in a rock band is about touring. It's about writing songs and it's about making records but it's also about taking a wonderful smile onto that stage and making the people feel good about themselves.

—James Young

We all have such common ways to identify with each other, and I think when you approach music in that organic way, it's almost indescribable how it connects human to human and heart to heart.

—Debby Boone

When I'm on stage, I'm trying to do one thing: bring people joy. Just like church does. People don't go to church to find trouble, they go there to lose it.

—James Brown

Heavy metal musicians write in minor keys, and when you do that, you frighten people.

—Ronnie James Dio

Music has gotten very girly. There are some good things about that, but hip-hop is the only place for young male anger at the moment—and that's not good...In the end, what is rock & roll? Rage is at the heart of it.

— U2's Bono

Music responds to the real world in any era because music is created by real people.

—Spencer Kornhaber

We are liable to miss the best of life if we do not know how to tingle, if we do not learn to hoist ourselves just a little higher than we generally are in order to sample the rarest and ripest fruit of art which human thought has to offer.

--Vladimir Nabokov

The real release is getting on stage. Once we're up there doing it, it's sheer fun and joy. Some long-distance stamina, of course, is needed. And the only way I can sustain the impetus over the long tours we do is by feeding off the energy that we get back from an audience. That's my fuel. All I've got is this burning energy, especially when I've got a guitar in my hands. I get an incredible raging glee when they get out of their seats. Yeah, come on, let it go. Give me some energy and I'll give you back double. It's almost like some enormous dynamo or generator. It's indescribable. I start to rely on it; I use their energy to keep myself going. If the place was empty, I wouldn't be able to do it....We couldn't do that without their energy, we just wouldn't even dream of it. And they make us want to give our best. We'll go for things we don't have to. It happens every night we go on....My whole physical being goes up a couple of notches. 'Ladies and gentlemen, The Rolling Stones.' I've heard that for forty-odd years, but the minute I'm out there and hit that first note, whatever it is, it's like I was driving a Datsun and suddenly it's a Ferrari....It's like sitting on top of a rocket.

—Keith Richards

Music is the best storage for human memory. As soon as you hit play, it can take you back in time.

—Ela Crain

My mother always told me, even if a song has been done a thousand times, you can still bring something of your own to it. I'd like to think I did that.

—Etta James

Listening to a sample of Buddy Holly's best work—"That'll Be the Day," "Oh, Boy!," "Maybe Baby," "Rave On," "Peggy Sue"—one can't help but wonder how many other classics he might have written and recorded had he lived past the age of 22.

—Robert A. Legg

The creative urge is the demon that will not accept anything second rate.

—Agnes de Mille