

# Aaron Copland Quotes

*Music, Listening, Long, Men, Self, Art, Would Be, People, Symphony, Want,  
Melody, Personality, Spirit, Play, Together, Way, Breathtaking, States, Flow,  
Satisfied*

To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable.

~Aaron Copland

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

The greatest moments of the human spirit may be deduced from the greatest moments in music.

~Aaron Copland

Most people use music as a couch; they want to be pillowed on it, relaxed and consoled for the stress of daily living. But serious music was never meant to be soporific.

~Aaron Copland

Listening to the Fifth Symphony of Ralph Vaughan Williams is like staring at a cow for 45 minutes.

~Aaron Copland

The main thing is to be satisfied with your work yourself. It's useless to have an audience happy if you are not happy.

~Aaron Copland

If you want to know about the Sixties, play the music of The Beatles.

~Aaron Copland

Music that is born complex is not inherently better or worse than music that is born simple.

~Aaron Copland

A melody is not merely something you can hum.

~Aaron Copland

Composers tend to assume that everyone loves music. Surprisingly enough, everyone doesn't.

~Aaron Copland

Someone once asked me... whether I waited for inspiration. My answer was: "Every day!"

~Aaron Copland

A great symphony is a man-made Mississippi down which we irresistibly flow from the instant of our leave-taking to a long forseen destination.

~Aaron Copland

Inspiration may be a form of superconsciousness, or perhaps of subconsciousness - I wouldn't know. But I am sure it is the antithesis of self-consciousness.

~Aaron Copland

I don't compose. I assemble materials.

~Aaron Copland

I adore extravagance but I abhor waste.

~Aaron Copland

Mozart tapped the source from which all music flows, expressing himself with a spontaneity and refinement and breathtaking rightness.

~Aaron Copland

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

~Aaron Copland

If one were asked to name one musician who came closest to composing without human flaw, I suppose general consensus would

choose Johann Sebastian Bach.

~Aaron Copland

I hope my recordings of my own works won't inhibit other people's performances. The brutal fact is that one doesn't always get the exact tempo one wants, although one improves with experience.

~Aaron Copland

The melody is generally what the piece is all about.

~Aaron Copland

Arthur V. Berger commenting on the music of Aaron Copland: Here is at last an American that we may place unapologetically beside the great recognized creative figures of any other country.

~Aaron Copland

You may feel depressed, but it can't be so depressing that you can't move. No, I would say that people create in moments when they are elated about expressing their depression!

~Aaron Copland

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