

Beck Quotes

*Years, Song, Thinking, People, Trying, Records, Way, Artist, Writing, Different,
Sound, Helping Others, Band, Littles, Quality, Long, Technology, Play, Ideas,
Track*

Let the desert wind cool your aching head. Let the weight of the world - drift away instead

~Beck

I think you have to keep a childlike quality to play music or make a record.

~Beck

I had long hair when I was a teenager.

~Beck

When my nephew was 3 and 4, he would say the most genius things. He said, You're hammer macho with FBI dogs. I thought it was just one of those great lines.

~Beck

Anything goes. You always find interesting things that way.

~Beck

In Japan, you get on the bullet train or the airplane, and I loved the little speeches the stewardesses would do. They even do little speeches before you play gigs.

~Beck

Two men look out the same prison bars; one sees mud and the other stars.

~Beck

I think my whole generation's mission is to kill the cliché.

~Beck

Every time you go in, it's like starting over. You don't know how you did the other records. You're learning all over. It's some weird musician amnesia, or maybe the road wipes it out.

~Beck

There's some quality you get when you're not totally comfortable. When you're not doing what you're used to, you could completely fall on your face. You could completely blow it.

~Beck

Somebody else is satisfied by five Bentleys. I'm satisfied by a beautiful string arrangement.

~Beck

There are plenty of Minutemen. People willing to be Minutemen. Where are the people that want to be George Washington? Where are the Benjamin Franklins? Where is Sam Adams? Where is John Adams?

~Beck

Your heart is a drum keeping time with everyone.

~Beck

Set your guitars and banjos on fire and before you write a song smoke a pack of whiskey and it'll all take care of itself.

~Beck

There's 40 or 50 songs that nobody's heard that I've done in between albums. There's a whole evolution from *Midnite Vultures* to *Sea Change* that's never been released.

~Beck

As society changes, as politics change, as people change, certain songs still seem to resonate.

~Beck

Art is the child of Nature; yes, her darling child, in whom we trace the features of the mother's face, her aspect and her attitude.

~Beck

There's some quality you get when you're not totally comfortable.

~Beck

You can't write if you can't relate.

~Beck

No one should drive a hard bargain with an artist.

~Beck

I just go in the studio and write on the spot and see what comes out.

~Beck

Originally, the lyrics to "Girl" were really upbeat, and then it didn't work for me somehow. You need the dichotomy. If you're doing something happy and light, you need the shadows.

~Beck

I'm a loser baby, so why don't you kill me?

~Beck

I think trying to be offbeat is the most boring thing possible.

~Beck

I've personally reached the point where the sound of MP3s are so un compelling, because so much is lost in translation.

~Beck

I grew up I guess you'd say in the cassette era.

~Beck

You have to shelve a lot of your inspiration. There's only so much you can do with one record.

~Beck

I'm just taking one step at a time. I could zigzag one way, but it's not usually on purpose.

~Beck

I enjoy recording live better, but I think by the nature of it you are going to end up with something that's a little bit more traditional.

~Beck

I'm more critical of my songwriting than anybody, but I've worked really hard in the last five to 10 years to improve.

~Beck

The limitations are limitless.

~Beck

When you work with somebody for a long period of time, you develop a shorthand with everything.

~Beck

Especially in music, you wonder, Okay, should I still be doing this? Like, are you overstaying your welcome at the party? But I don't know.

~Beck

Growing up, a film was an action film or it was a comedy or it was romantic, but you don't really see such stark lines between genres nowadays.

~Beck

I did that Grammys thing - I did a little freeform poem.

~Beck

The years keep going by and you realize, Wow. Doing these records is

such a process: going on tour for a year and a half, then you get home and you want to do other things.

~Beck

When you say 'state' you mean 'national.' National Socialism. That is what Mussolini and Hitler did. National Socialism. State Capitalism. They've changed the name.

~Beck

I would love to do an electronic record. There's just so much to see and do and try. And life goes by.

~Beck

You can't please everybody, man.

~Beck

Sea Change was so specific. From the beginning it was set what it was going to be. All the other ideas that I had at the time I had to put to the side.

~Beck

I think it's interesting being American, the expectations for an American guy, and the image that has to be projected. 'Oh, I can't wear pink,' that kind of stuff. There's none of that in Europe.

~Beck

As music becomes more computer-based, it's lost some emotional impact.

~Beck

With modern recording techniques, and living in the Pro Tools era, the process gets really drawn-out, and it can become painstaking.

~Beck

If someone is making a judgment when they don't have firsthand experience, it's intolerant. How can you make a judgment on something you don't know about?

~Beck

I do think music sounds better when it's on tape and more simply recorded.

~Beck

There are certain records that you love because the songs are great, but you don't go to them as an example of great production.

~Beck

There are a lot of technical studio things I've learned or figured out, and I feel like I could use those things to help other people with what they're doing.

~Beck

I'm always looking for older equipment and ways of recording, but you can't escape the fact that it's all going to be digitized and reduced.

~Beck

There's more well-known artists who aren't making as good songs as people who are just coming out of nowhere. That seems to be more typical in the last few years than ever.

~Beck

I don't remember half of the new bands, though - and I think that's kind of where we're going. It's turning into just a big derby of songs. May the best song win.

~Beck

When you use some of the more modern recording devices and Pro Tools, when you get into the technology, you are aching to get into

some territory.

~Beck

Whether you're aware of it or not, any kind of collage idea becomes a part of how you see the world once you incorporate media and internet and video games and all these things.

~Beck

Whatever you do has to be commercial and it can't be too distracting - it has to be background music, basically.

~Beck

It gets a little bit troublesome when you have something that's overcompressed that shouldn't be.

~Beck

The only way I was allowed to play was by convincing bands to let me do a few songs while they set up. That went on for years.

~Beck

I didn't want to be on a major label. I wanted all the attention and the noise to go away because I wanted to be something a little bit more substantial.

~Beck

With my own music, I try to get away from things that are familiar and things that would be easy for me to go to.

~Beck

I've been practicing for years, trying to figure out how to record an entire band live.

~Beck

I didn't want to do something typical.

~Beck

Technology was something I avoided when I started out - I didn't even have electric guitars. Only played acoustic.

~Beck

I'm always working on my own music, too. I've been working on a record for a few years.

~Beck

I enjoy the collaboration. I always envied people in bands who got to have that interaction.

~Beck

There are people who've prepared their whole lives for real heavy success and bask in it. They're so good at it and they obviously love it. I'm just happy to be making a record.

~Beck

I've been arguing with people for 10 years about tape versus digital, and I believe tape is absolutely essential in getting the sound that's conducive to the enjoyment of music.

~Beck

I'm sure the music is going to come out. I'm not sure if I'm going to put out 12"s or put the songs on my website. I just have to get them done.

~Beck

Just out of curiosity, I wonder what makes music or culture or taste go in certain directions. Who knows what the forces are behind it.

~Beck

I try not to do email; I try to talk to people on the phone.

~Beck

[Early on,] the attitude was that what I was doing wasn't music.

~Beck

I've said for years to wives and mothers, you must start to see yourself as Sarah Connor. You must equip your children with the information they need to survive an ever-changing world.

~Beck

I love British humor. It's just so - surreal.

~Beck

Every band I knew or played with had flyers and properly-recorded demos and contacts; I couldn't even get a gig.

~Beck

I never had any expectations of winning a Grammy. It wasn't something I was set on, that I was hoping and praying and starving for.

~Beck

I have for four years now been ringing the bell. Economic Holocaust is coming. Economic day of reckoning is coming.

~Beck

Eventually, if you're experimenting with a sound that's unfamiliar, it gets absorbed, and somebody comes and does it better, and it becomes part of a vocabulary.

~Beck

I didn't even have a computer until like 10 years ago. I was still using a typewriter until 2002.

~Beck

Sometimes, reissues can be revelatory, or put the original record in a different light, but those are rare.

~Beck

There's a perception that if an artist produces another artist, they're going to imprint on them. But I'm the opposite.

~Beck

It's so easy to criticize your own time, and I see that as a problem, even for myself, as a listener.

~Beck

You just want to go back to those 70s albums. Even a lot of the 90s indie records were still done on tape, and you hear the difference.

~Beck

It's hard to make music knowing that it's not going to be received by the listener in the way that it should be.

~Beck

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