

Branford Marsalis

Quotes

People, Jazz, Music, Song, America, Successful, Musician, Tough Times, Play, Player, Records, Sound, Listening, Culture, Titles, World, Believe, Moving, Mean, Brain

That's kind of like how jazz is sometimes. You're out there predicting the future, and no one believes you.

~Branford Marsalis

When you're dealing with music without words, titles are more a means of identification than anything else. What's the point of getting lofty?

~Branford Marsalis

One of the things that's clear to me from interviews that I've read is that the more popular successful jazz musicians had audiences above and beyond the music community.

~Branford Marsalis

Pop doesn't really look back. It can't. What makes pop work is simplicity.

~Branford Marsalis

You don't know what you like, you like what you know. In order to know what you like, you have to know everything.

~Branford Marsalis

What is jazz? It, It's almost like asking, What is French? Jazz is a musical language. It's a musical dialect that actually embodies the spirit of America.

~Branford Marsalis

A lot of musicians have a tough time hearing what we're doing in a trio format.

~Branford Marsalis

I'm not going to play funk licks on a jazz album. That makes no sense.

~Branford Marsalis

I think that if you keep banging at the door all you need is a little

foothold, a little tiny foothold, and then the rest will take care of itself.

~Branford Marsalis

So much of Jazz doesn't have an audience other than music students or musicians.

~Branford Marsalis

Coltrane came to New Orleans one day and he was talking about the jazz scene. And Coltrane mentions that the problem with jazz was that there were too few groups.

~Branford Marsalis

There's not one Tin Pan Alley song on my record.

~Branford Marsalis

We all played bad before we played good.

~Branford Marsalis

Everybody talks about finding your voice. Do your homework and your voice will find you.

~Branford Marsalis

You know, being America, being the land of "number ones", everyone wants to be a leader before they follow.

~Branford Marsalis

My dad was a musician, it was just what he did, like another guy's dad drives a meat truck. Our house was normal. We weren't taken with the fact our dad was a musician.

~Branford Marsalis

I like to make records sound good. I'm more like a reducer than a producer. If an artist cannot produce themselves, what's the point?

~Branford Marsalis

If it's not going to sound like Terrapin Station, what's the point of playing Terrapin Station?

~Branford Marsalis

My job is to write songs that have emotional meaning to me.

~Branford Marsalis

Jazz is so incestuous that it's starting to kill itself.

~Branford Marsalis

If I were like a lot of other people, then it wouldn't be fun; but since I'm like me, it's okay.

~Branford Marsalis

We have something that is unique. We have our craft. We have our art. We have our desire.

~Branford Marsalis

I gave up my base in popular culture when I left the Tonight Show.

~Branford Marsalis

You hear it in your brain. Whatever makes sense. Some songs work well as quartet songs, sometimes they don't.

~Branford Marsalis

There is not a sentence in the world that could respectfully do justice to the life and music of Jerry Garcia.

~Branford Marsalis

It's something that jazz has gotten away from, and it's unfortunate. Players aren't physical anymore.

~Branford Marsalis

It's hard to get into Newsweek because, as more of our former

intellectual magazines take on a pop focus, if there's no buzz, there's no interest.

~Branford Marsalis

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