

# Carla Bley

## Quotes

*Jazz, Music, Band, Listening, World, Play, Teacher, Full Circle, Exotic, Needs, America, Stars, Rocks, Receiving, Would Be, Mulligans, Sophisticated, Years, Art, Ignorance*

I still prefer the bebop of the '40s. The very stuff I started out with is still the best to me. I have come full circle.

~Carla Bley

When you are studying jazz, the best thing to do is listen to records or listen to live music. It isn't as though you go to a teacher. You just listen as much as you can and absorb everything.

~Carla Bley

What's interesting about a person without problems?

~Carla Bley

I like chords that are very lush with all the lush parts taken out.

~Carla Bley

Listening is more important than anything else because that's what music is. Somebody is playing something and you're receiving it. It is sending and receiving.

~Carla Bley

When Ronald Reagan was elected I was on a bus traveling with a band in France. I wrote a little arrangement of The Star Spangled Banner in a minor key.

~Carla Bley

When you have 13 horns, and one is soloing, you have 12 people to play the richest, fullest chord you could ever imagine behind that solo.

~Carla Bley

I don't enjoy traveling in America. I don't like the food, the cars. It is not exotic enough. It all tastes a bit like airline food.

~Carla Bley

Living composers writing for big band are very few and far between.

There are not a lot of them, and I have a talent for doing it. I am zeroing in on what I do best.

~Carla Bley

Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker seemed so sophisticated and bad. I wanted to be like that.

~Carla Bley

One performer whose band played my music better than I could myself was Art Farmer. He recorded 'Sing Me Softly of the Blues' and 'Ad Infinitum'.

~Carla Bley

I just got to hear every note. After I left Birdland, I started working at the Jazz Gallery. In the end, I still couldn't play, but I knew how to listen. I was probably the world's best listener.

~Carla Bley

I don't think you can ever regain your ignorance.

~Carla Bley

I got started when I was 3 years old because my father was a music teacher and my lessons were free. Instead of learning to walk, you learn to play the piano.

~Carla Bley

I don't need much coaxing.

~Carla Bley

It would be really hard to get serious about anything political today unless it was a joke.

~Carla Bley

There are times when what's happening in rock is the best music in the

world, and there are times when there is nothing worthwhile at all.

~Carla Bley

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