

Carlisle Floyd Quotes

*Opera, Writing, America, Thinking, Artist, Art, Character, People, Doe,
Outsiders, Democracy, Felt, Pieces, Personality, Something New, Scene, Lasts,
Sight, Fall, Europe*

It seems to me opera is just as relevant as an expressive art as anything else.

~Carlisle Floyd

We think the Puritans always dressed in black and white, which they didn't. They loved very bright colors. And there were other differences in perceptions that gave one a very different view of them.

~Carlisle Floyd

Our most intimate contact with civilizations long since dust has been through the art which has survived them.

~Carlisle Floyd

I found a certain kind of music congenial to me; it never occurred to me to write music that was academically acceptable.

~Carlisle Floyd

The story of Willie Stark fascinated me because it was tackling the story of a man who outwardly has all the success one could possibly want and who is destroyed by his personal demons.

~Carlisle Floyd

Most of the important composers in our country are clustered in the Northeast.

~Carlisle Floyd

If something is successful with the audience, it's automatically suspect; the reverse is to say that not to reach audiences is the greatest compliment an artist can receive!

~Carlisle Floyd

There is something inherent in our democracy that tends to want to level. America is a little uncomfortable in the presence of someone who is distinctly superior in whatever way.

~Carlisle Floyd

What is American music? The most satisfying answer I've come across is that it was a kind of natural comfort with the vernacular which is diverse and regional; it's not one particular set of sounds.

~Carlisle Floyd

If an American audience is given a serious musical theater piece that is well produced, dramatically gripping and wonderfully acted, they'll respond to it.

~Carlisle Floyd

People in very high places suddenly fall, and we are always surprised because we don't factor in the basic element that they're humans and, therefore, they are flawed and have weaknesses.

~Carlisle Floyd

Like any other composer of opera, I choose a subject not for polemical reasons, but because it contains vivid characters in highly charged dramatic situations.

~Carlisle Floyd

I find it enormously valuable to be sure that that the pacing is what I think it is and that the scenes have the shape I think they have musically and dramatically.

~Carlisle Floyd

I've never set out consciously to write American music. I don't know what that would be unless the obvious Appalachian folk references.

~Carlisle Floyd

Anyone who creates something new or does something different artistically is going to be singled out.

~Carlisle Floyd

I think anything that is expressed directly and as honestly as possible will last.

~Carlisle Floyd

The artist is something of an outsider in America. I have always felt that America does not value its artists, certainly not in the sense that the Europeans do.

~Carlisle Floyd

America tends to worship the modest talent because it doesn't put us in an uncomfortable position vis-a-vis the artist.

~Carlisle Floyd

Socially I never was an outsider. I have never thought of the conflict element before frankly, but perhaps it was wanting to belong, and at the same time wanting to retain one's own personality.

~Carlisle Floyd

When I've seen my operas in Europe, they have always struck me as more American than when I hear them here. I can't tell you what that phenomenon is.

~Carlisle Floyd

If I felt that one of my operas did not come off I would certainly say so.

~Carlisle Floyd

I was encouraged by my mother and, to a lesser extent, by my father.

~Carlisle Floyd

You can't possibly predict what will last or not. But once you attempt to write for the ages, you're doomed.

~Carlisle Floyd

I had all the normal interests - I played basketball and I headed the

school paper. But I also developed very early a great love for music and literature and the theater.

~Carlisle Floyd

I was trying to do something that seemed very natural and easy but which bridged that gulf between the singing voice and the speaking voice.

~Carlisle Floyd

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