

# Carter Burwell

## Quotes

*Film, People, Thinking, Directors, New York, Audience, Fun, Music Is, Cuffs,  
Firsts, Brain, Mystery, Hero, Gaelic, Missing, Environmental, Would Be,  
Adhesive, Piano, Scottish*

Big Sur is at the end of the continent. It attracts really crazy people.

~Carter Burwell

Death is always around the corner, but often our society gives it inordinate help.

~Carter Burwell

I don't find myself lobbying for projects. Filmmakers almost always come to me.

~Carter Burwell

A carefree quality is a whole aspect of life that I will never understand. I don't think I have ever been carefree and can't see the pleasure of it.

~Carter Burwell

I'm one of those people who is actually inspired by a deadline. I might not sleep for many days on end, it may not be good for my health, but it definitely helps.

~Carter Burwell

Music is the subliminal connecting adhesive in film, or at least in narrative feature films.

~Carter Burwell

I have always loved Scottish music - all sorts of Celtic, Gaelic music.

~Carter Burwell

Conducting, I tried it once off the cuff, and quickly realized there were subtle aspects that I was missing. There is a lot more to it that I was able to grasp simply by watching conductors.

~Carter Burwell

Connection is what one is after in probably most media, but certainly in film, which is an immersive medium.

~Carter Burwell

I like business and personal life to be distinct.

~Carter Burwell

John Barry was the first film composer I was aware of. As a teenager I owned several of his Bond soundtracks.

~Carter Burwell

In mainstream romantic comedies, I'm usually tearing my hair out. It's just a devastatingly difficult genre for me.

~Carter Burwell

Carefully execute every instruction given to you by the director, producer, and studio. But that would be a life not worth living.

~Carter Burwell

When the systems we expect to help us actually hurt us, we have tragedy.

~Carter Burwell

I would like to do a science fiction film some day. Star Wars seems really to have destroyed the genre, which at one time offered great musical opportunities.

~Carter Burwell

There is not much irony when people are being happy on screen.

~Carter Burwell

I think being a little nuts is helpful.

~Carter Burwell

I don't personally see my work as being dark. What interests me is a balance between light and dark.

~Carter Burwell

I think I've only done one horror movie, Psycho III. That was a walk in the park compared to a romantic comedy.

~Carter Burwell

If not bliss, ignorance can at least be fun.

~Carter Burwell

Any film which views the darker side of life, which is death with a sense of humor, is very much to my taste.

~Carter Burwell

The jarring change going from an urban environment to an extremely remote natural environment is extremely inspiring. It's constantly stimulating, it's like a slap in the face.

~Carter Burwell

I write music to please myself. Hopefully the director's enjoying it too.

~Carter Burwell

Los Angeles is an industry town, and it has great facilities and personnel. The disadvantage is that everyone there seems to talk about the same subject matter.

~Carter Burwell

All my music is very simple in that melody is usually clearly stated.

~Carter Burwell

John Barry was my hero when I was about 13. His scores to the James Bond movies were the scores of my life back then.

~Carter Burwell

I don't generally find myself listening to the music of a film unless

there's something awfully wrong with it.

~Carter Burwell

If someone suddenly lost their director the day before shooting and wanted me to step in, I'd be willing to. But I'd do brain surgery the same way. I'm always up for something new.

~Carter Burwell

On Being John Malkovich and the cinema of the absurd, I do enjoy it. I wish there were more like it. The very fact that there can't be more like it is one of the reasons it's admirable.

~Carter Burwell

How does my music connect to an audience? That is just a complete mystery to me.

~Carter Burwell

Hopefully each film can be given a musical voice of its own, which is not to say that the instrumentation is always unique, but that the relationship between the sound and the image is unique.

~Carter Burwell

I had piano lessons when I was a kid, like most people. And hated them, like most people. And quit, like most people.

~Carter Burwell

I almost never try to make the audience comfortable. I wouldn't want that if I were in the audience.

~Carter Burwell

I like the fact that New York looks a bit backwards, toward the Old World, rather than resolutely forwards.

~Carter Burwell

Learning how to improvise really awakened my interest in music.

~Carter Burwell

I prefer a life in which we don't take ourselves too seriously.

~Carter Burwell

I just love the sheer mess of New York.

~Carter Burwell

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