

Charles Mingus

Quotes

Music, Play, Jazz, Men, Simple, Thinking, Creativity, People, Writing, Art, Inspirational, Emotion, Singing, Trying, Teacher, Musical, Als, Soul, Building, Matter

Creativity is more than just being different. Anybody can plan weird; that's easy. What's hard is to be as simple as Bach. Making the simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity.

~Charles Mingus

Making the simple complicated is commonplace; making the complicated simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity.

~Charles Mingus

I never heard my music played the way I heard it in my head.

~Charles Mingus

I am Charles Mingus, half black man, not even white enough to pass for nothing but black. I am Charles Mingus, a famed jazzman, but not famed enough to make a living in this society.

~Charles Mingus

I'm trying to play the truth of what I am. The reason it's difficult is because I'm changing all the time.

~Charles Mingus

My music is evidence of my souls will to live.

~Charles Mingus

If Charlie Parker were a Gunslinger, There'd be a Whole Lot of Dead Copycats

~Charles Mingus

Jazz music is a language of the emotions.

~Charles Mingus

Making the complicated simple is true creativity.

~Charles Mingus

Bach is how buildings got taller. It's how we got to the moon.

~Charles Mingus

They're singing your praises while stealing your phrases.

~Charles Mingus

In my music, I'm trying to play the truth of what I am.

~Charles Mingus

I've got a feeling that if it's so easy for you - the struggle and the initiative are not as strong as they are for a person who has to struggle and therefore has more to say.

~Charles Mingus

Thelonius Monk went over to Bird and Bud Powell and said, 'I told you guys to act crazy, but I didn't tell you to fall in love with the act. You're really crazy now.'

~Charles Mingus

I was always doing revolutionary things, things that would alert people, so they would stop being so subservient.

~Charles Mingus

Everything I do is Mingus.

~Charles Mingus

Life has many changes. Tomorrow it may rain, and it's supposed to be sunshine, 'cause it's summertime. But God's got a funny soul, he plays like Charlie Parker.

~Charles Mingus

Whatever coast he's on, a man should be himself. I don't write in any particular idiom, I write Charles Mingus.

~Charles Mingus

Most customers, by the time the musicians reach the second set, are to some extent inebriated. They don't care what you play anyway.

~Charles Mingus

Making the simple complicated is commonplace.

~Charles Mingus

Anybody can make the simple complicated. Creativity is making the complicated simple.

~Charles Mingus

Let my children have music! Let them hear live music.

~Charles Mingus

I always thought that no matter what kind of work people did, they should involve themselves totally with all the discrimination they ran into.

~Charles Mingus

Just because I'm playing jazz I don't forget about me. I play or write me, the way I feel, through jazz, or whatever.

~Charles Mingus

What do you think happens to a composer who is sincere and loves to write and has to wait thirty years to have someone play a piece of his music?

~Charles Mingus

If you think this is weird, just look at yourselves.

~Charles Mingus

If someone has been escaping reality, I don't expect him to dig my music.

~Charles Mingus

Jazz is the language of the emotions.

~Charles Mingus

Tastes are created by the business interests. How else can you explain the popularity of Al Hirt?

~Charles Mingus

I always wanted to be a spontaneous composer.

~Charles Mingus

Most of the soloists at Birdland had to wait for Parker's next record in order to find out what to play next. What will they do now?

~Charles Mingus

I was born swinging and clapped my hands in church as a little boy, but I've grown up and I like to do things other than just swing. But blues can do more than just swing.

~Charles Mingus

In high school I was on the basketball team, but the coach did something I didn't dig and the next day he looked up and saw me practising with the football team.

~Charles Mingus

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