

Claude Debussy

Quotes

*Art, Music, Beautiful, People, Space, Feelings, Sunset, Dream, Law,
Expression, Notes, Trying, Airplane, Wish, Space Between, Age, Century, Soul,
Silence, Children*

There is nothing more musical than a sunset.

~Claude Debussy

But music, don't you know, is a dream from which the veils have been lifted. It's not even the expression of a feeling, it's the feeling itself.

~Claude Debussy

Music is the space between the notes.

~Claude Debussy

Works of art make rules but rules do not make works of art.

~Claude Debussy

Music begins where words are powerless to express. Music is made for the inexpressible. I want music to seem to rise from the shadows and indeed sometimes to return to them.

~Claude Debussy

Music is the expression of the movement of the waters, the play of curves described by changing breezes.

~Claude Debussy

[on Richard Wagner] A beautiful sunset that was mistaken for a dawn.

~Claude Debussy

I am more and more convinced that music is not, in essence, a thing which can be cast into a traditional and fixed form. It is made up of colors and rhythms.

~Claude Debussy

Listen to no one's advice except that of the wind in the trees. That can recount the whole history of mankind.

~Claude Debussy

I love music passionately. And because I love it I try to free it from barren traditions that stifle it.

~Claude Debussy

Art is the most beautiful deception of all!

~Claude Debussy

On those who overanalyze his music: When you tear the wings off a butterfly, it is no longer a butterfly

~Claude Debussy

How much has to be explored and discarded before reaching the naked flesh of feeling.

~Claude Debussy

If I am not making music, I have no reason for existing.

~Claude Debussy

Anyone who calls my music "impressionist" is an imbecile.

~Claude Debussy

Music is the arithmetic of sounds as optics is the geometry of light.

~Claude Debussy

Some people wish above all to conform to the rules, I wish only to render what I can hear.

~Claude Debussy

The colour of my soul is iron-grey and sad bats wheel about the steeple of my dreams.

~Claude Debussy

Beauty must appeal to the senses, must provide us with immediate enjoyment, must impress us or insinuate itself into us without any effort

on our part.

~Claude Debussy

It is necessary to abandon yourself completely, and let the music do as it will with you. All people come to music to seek oblivion.

~Claude Debussy

To complete a work is just like being present at the death of someone you love.

~Claude Debussy

In opera, there is always too much singing.

~Claude Debussy

I wish to sing of my interior visions with the naive candour of a child.

~Claude Debussy

People don't very much like things that are beautiful - they are so far from their nasty little minds.

~Claude Debussy

Claude Debussy was a rare phenomenon a composer profoundly and subversively revolutionary.

~Claude Debussy

Life is the space between our things.

~Claude Debussy

I have a horror of sentimentality, and I cannot forget that its name is Saint-Saëns.

~Claude Debussy

He was the incomparable painter of mystery, silence, and the infinite, of the passing cloud, and the sunlit shimmer of the waves-subleties which

none before him had been capable of suggesting.

~Claude Debussy

Beauty seems to strike some people as a personal affront.

~Claude Debussy

The attraction of the virtuoso for the public is very like that of the circus for the crowd. There is always the hope that something dangerous may happen.

~Claude Debussy

The age of automobiles and aeroplanes cannot express itself in the same manner as did the age of the diligence.

~Claude Debussy

There is no theory. You merely have to listen. Pleasure is the law.

~Claude Debussy

The century of airplanes has a right to its own music.

~Claude Debussy

The music I desire must be supple enough to adapt itself to the lyrical effusions of the soul and the fantasy of dreams.

~Claude Debussy

Extreme complication is contrary to art.

~Claude Debussy

People come to music to seek oblivion: is that not also a form of deception?

~Claude Debussy

The century of aeroplanes deserves its own music. As there are no precedents, I must create anew.

~Claude Debussy

Peter Townsend Music is the silence between the notes.. So could it be said that dance is the stillness between the steps?

~Claude Debussy

First of all, ladies and gentlemen, you must forget that you are singers.

~Claude Debussy

Do not allow the accents in the brass to produce space between the notes.

~Claude Debussy

The worship of Adonis is united with that of Christ.

~Claude Debussy

The trouble with the opera is there's always too much singing.

~Claude Debussy

Music is in the space between the notes.

~Claude Debussy

Is it not our duty to find the symphonic formula which fits our time, one which progress, daring and modern victory demand? The century of airplanes has a right to its own music.

~Claude Debussy

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