

Count Basie Quotes

*Music, Play, Thinking, Feet, Real, Swings, Names, Cat, Way, Soul, Stories,
Bigs, Sound, Wanted, Ivory, Valleys, Kansas City, Band, Just Being, Country*

Of course, there are a lot of ways you can treat the blues, but it will still be the blues.

~Count Basie

Learn to deal with the valleys and the hills will take care of themselves.

~Count Basie

It's the way you play that makes it . . . Play like you play. Play like you think, and then you got it, if you're going to get it. And whatever you get, that's you, so that's your story.

~Count Basie

If you play a tune and a person don't tap their feet, don't play the tune.

~Count Basie

The real innovators did their innovating by just being themselves.

~Count Basie

If you find a note tonight that sounds good, play the same damn note every night!

~Count Basie

I was always willing to say, "Let's see what happens," when something came up that looked like it might help me get a little closer to where I wanted to be . . .

~Count Basie

Keep on listening & tapping your feet.

~Count Basie

I think the band can really swing when it swings easy, when it can just play along like you are cutting butter.

~Count Basie

All I wanted was to be big, to be in show business and to travel ... and that's what I've been doing all my life.

~Count Basie

If a guy is gonna to play good bop, he has to have a sort of a bop soul.

~Count Basie

I just think swing is a matter of some good things put together that you can really pat your foot by. I can't define it beyond that.

~Count Basie

I decided that I would be one of the biggest new names; and I actually had some little fancy business cards printed up to announce it, 'Count Basie. Beware, the Count is Here.'

~Count Basie

I don't dig that two-beat jive the New Orleans cats play. My boys and I have to have four heavy beats to the bar and no cheating.

~Count Basie

I, of course, wanted to play real jazz. When we played pop tunes, and naturally we had to, I wanted those pops to kick! Not loud and fast, understand, but smoothly and with a definite punch.

~Count Basie

Freddie Green has been my right arm for thirty years. And if he leaves the band one day, I'll probably leave with him.

~Count Basie

Oscar Peterson plays the best ivory box I've ever heard.

~Count Basie

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- Sound Quotes
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