

Dave Van Ronk

Quotes

*Thinking, Cutting, Way, Labels, Jazz, Musician, Song, Principles, Stars,
Congratulations, Grandfather, Fronts, Mother, Asymmetry, Navy, Audience,
Tired, Real, Men, Practice*

Most of what I listen to now is mainstream jazz from 1935 right up to and including early bebop and cool jazz.

~Dave Van Ronk

Honesty is the cruelest game of all, because not only can you hurt someone - and hurt them to the bone - you can feel self-righteous about it at the same time.

~Dave Van Ronk

If you look at music, you see theme, variation, you see symmetry, asymmetry, you see structure, and these are related to skills in the real world.

~Dave Van Ronk

My uncle and my grandfather both worked in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

~Dave Van Ronk

I think I have more in common with a carpenter than you might think. We're putting things together.

~Dave Van Ronk

God has a way of telling you when to change your strings.

~Dave Van Ronk

You can't be afraid of failure and you can't be afraid of success, because either one gets in the way of your work.

~Dave Van Ronk

When you're working in front of an audience, you have incentive to excel.

~Dave Van Ronk

I cut myself off from the mainstream of jazz. It stood me in good stead later on, as a musician.

~Dave Van Ronk

In the early 1970s. 1971, '72. The rooms were closing down, record labels weren't signing acoustic acts any more. Although they had been pretty much been getting out of that for some time before that.

~Dave Van Ronk

There is an apprenticeship system in jazz. You teach the young ones. So even if the musicians weren't personally that likable, they felt an obligation to help the younger musicians.

~Dave Van Ronk

If I do a piece in my living room, if I practice it - and I have the tapes to prove this - it's not going to be as good as doing the same piece in front of an audience.

~Dave Van Ronk

By the mid-70s, I wanted to get out of the business. I was tired anyway.

~Dave Van Ronk

Ian and Sylvia, who, when you got right down to it, were essentially country and western singers. I just recorded his Four Strong Winds. It's a wonderful song.

~Dave Van Ronk

And then adds with a laugh, 'but in retrospect I think he may have been more sophisticated than we were.'

~Dave Van Ronk

If you asked anybody in my family, they would have very stridently proclaimed themselves middle class. My mother and father were separated, so he doesn't count.

~Dave Van Ronk

Sometimes you have to forget your principles and do what's right.

~Dave Van Ronk

Most blues don't have a beginning, middle, or end. You just cut a couple slices of blues.

~Dave Van Ronk

I'm a very, very stubborn man.

~Dave Van Ronk

I'm an exhibitionist, I was an exhibitionist as a kid.

~Dave Van Ronk

I don't think I went a year or so without a record between 1959 and 1979, sometimes two.

~Dave Van Ronk

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