

Franz Liszt

Quotes

*Art, Music, Heart, Musician, Gypsy, Ambition, Style, Song, Children, Inspiration,
Artist, Real, Musical, Recognition, Firsts, Sorrowful, Hungary, Sacrifice,
Glowing, Destiny*

Music is the heart of life." She speaks love; "without it, there is no possible good and with it everything is beautiful.

~Franz Liszt

In life one must decide whether to conjugate the verb to have or the verb to be.

~Franz Liszt

I carry a deep sadness of the heart which must now and then break out in sound.

~Franz Liszt

Real men are sadly lacking in this world, for when they are put to the test they prove worthless.

~Franz Liszt

Beware of missing chances; otherwise it may be altogether too late some day.

~Franz Liszt

My sole ambition as a composer is to hurl my javelin into the infinite space of the future.

~Franz Liszt

In Hungary all native music, in its origin, is divided naturally into melody destined for song or melody for the dance.

~Franz Liszt

Music embodies feeling without forcing it to contend and combine with thought, as it is forced in most arts and especially in the art of words.

~Franz Liszt

Mournful and yet grand is the destiny of the artist.

~Franz Liszt

A person of any mental quality has ideas of his own. This is common sense.

~Franz Liszt

Truth is a great flirt.

~Franz Liszt

So let us not worry, and look instead as it has been taught us to do, as the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, keeping complete faith in Our Father's goodness.

~Franz Liszt

Life is only a long and bitter suicide, and faith alone can transform this suicide into a sacrifice.

~Franz Liszt

The character of instrumental music... lets the emotions radiate and shine in their own character without presuming to display them as real or imaginary representations.

~Franz Liszt

It is impossible to imagine a more complete fusion with nature than that of the Gypsy.

~Franz Liszt

A good Cuban cigar closes the doors to the vulgarities of the world.

~Franz Liszt

I am not fond of speaking about politics because I don't have in my possession an army of 200,000 soldiers.

~Franz Liszt

Broad paths are open to every endeavour, and a sympathetic recognition is assured to every one who consecrates his art to the

divine services of a conviction of a consciousness.

~Franz Liszt

As for famous men who were not artists, I am beginning to be tired of them. Those poor little scoundrels who are called great men fill me with nothing but overwhelming horror.

~Franz Liszt

Music is never stationary; successive forms and styles are only like so many resting-places - like tents pitched and taken down again on the road to the Ideal.

~Franz Liszt

Sorrowful and great is the artist's destiny.

~Franz Liszt

I did not compose my work as one might put on a church vestment... rather it sprung from the truly fervent faith of my heart, such as I have felt it since my childhood.

~Franz Liszt

You cannot imagine how it spoils one to have been a child prodigy.

~Franz Liszt

Supreme serenity still remains the Ideal of great Art. The shapes and transitory forms of life are but stages toward this Ideal, which Christ's religion illuminates with His divine light.

~Franz Liszt

I foster a sorrowful conception of affection. Make no sacrifices.

~Franz Liszt

Oral musical traditions are rooted in assured and scrupulous faith.

~Franz Liszt

The principal task of a conductor is not to put himself in evidence but to disappear behind his functions as much as possible. We are pilots, not servants.

~Franz Liszt

I find little in the works of Beethoven, Berlioz, Wagner and others when they are led by a conductor who functions like a windmill.

~Franz Liszt

Brahms' Variations are better than mine, but mine were written before his.

~Franz Liszt

Companions, in misery and worse, that is what we all are, and to try to change this substantially avails us nothing.

~Franz Liszt

The supreme harmony of the cosmos is selected in the harmony of the spirit.

~Franz Liszt

When you write the story of two happy lovers, let the story be set on the banks of Lake Como.

~Franz Liszt

In the oldest chronicles of the times conserved in Hungary, reports will be found of Gypsy music, but never of any other, either Magyar, Slavic or Jewish.

~Franz Liszt

I conclude that the Wagnerian operas which are already in the repertoire, and other masterworks as well, stand in no further need of my services.

~Franz Liszt

A theatre receives recognition through its initiative, which is indispensable for first-rate performances.

~Franz Liszt

It is my fervent wish and my greatest ambition to leave a work with a few useful instructions for the pianists after me.

~Franz Liszt

We need improvement in the style of performance. There is no more advantage in a musician who plays and conducts than in one who is only a beater of rhythm.

~Franz Liszt

The first impulse of a great number of civilized musicians... is to protest our declaration that the music in Hungary belongs to the Gypsies.

~Franz Liszt

Inspiration is enough to give expression to the tone in singing, especially when the song is without words.

~Franz Liszt

The public is always good.

~Franz Liszt

The music of the Gypsies belongs in the sphere of improvisation rather than in any other, without which it would have no power to exist.

~Franz Liszt

As the mother teaches her children how to express themselves in their language, so one Gypsy musician teaches the other. They have never shown any need for notation.

~Franz Liszt

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