

Ian MacKaye

Quotes

People, Thinking, Song, Mean, Years, Ideas, Sports, Trying, Real, Want, Country, Band, Fighting, Way, Nice, War, Stuff, Important, Culture, Giving

An unlocked door means that, occasionally, you might get a devil come in, but a locked door means you have thousands of angels just walk by.

~Ian MacKaye

If You Want To Rebel Against Society, Don't Dull The Blade

~Ian MacKaye

I just have work to do; I just do it.

~Ian MacKaye

We play loud electric guitar music, and we'd hope that that doesn't mean you have to act like an asshole.

~Ian MacKaye

It's so interesting that humanity has to be defined by emotional strife or something. I don't buy into that.

~Ian MacKaye

I never imagine myself as anything. I've never had a goal or any future vision at all. I just do what's in front of me.

~Ian MacKaye

The American underground punk scene, though, is a story worth remembering.

~Ian MacKaye

I'm always happy when I hear about people selling records or selling books or selling movies. It makes me proud of them.

~Ian MacKaye

I'd much rather talk to a 30-year old that survived rough times in their lives [practicing Straight Edge] rather than someone that was harmed by a culture of violence.

~Ian MacKaye

Major labels didn't start showing up really until they smelled money, and that's all they're ever going to be attracted to is money-that's the business they're in- making money.

~Ian MacKaye

To me, music is no joke and it's not for sale.

~Ian MacKaye

I'm not a religious person, and I'm not too interested in being a part of a religion, but I do like having some sort of communal gathering, and having some sense of peoples.

~Ian MacKaye

Record labels have enjoyed a 100-year monopoly of selling plastic and now they're up against a different format.

~Ian MacKaye

The only thing that drives music is the people who are making it.

~Ian MacKaye

People will say "You must miss playing to a thousand people." But I don't. I might miss playing. That's what I would miss, but I don't miss it, because I am playing.

~Ian MacKaye

I jump from one thing to the next but try and strike a balance. But it's not nostalgic in the sense of 'those were the good old days and now we're not there'. I don't think like that. Not my way.

~Ian MacKaye

When people who are songwriters say 'That's my property and if you give it away for free then I'll lose my incentive,' then, well, good

riddance.

~Ian MacKaye

I've always been a bit of a documentarian.

~Ian MacKaye

Bars are meeting places and places to unwind. But at some point, what is culture unwinding from, and why can't they meet anywhere else?

~Ian MacKaye

What does bother me is that I have to spend time and energy dealing with the ramifications of what people do think about me.

~Ian MacKaye

1991 for some people was a significant year in terms of punk rock. It was the year "punk broke".

~Ian MacKaye

It's just hard to have a nuanced discussion with like a thousand people, 30 of which are white-power skinheads.

~Ian MacKaye

I do not consider myself a teddybear. Just to be clear, I don't feel sorry for myself.

~Ian MacKaye

If people want new music then they are going to have to figure out a way to be patrons of the arts. And they will.

~Ian MacKaye

I think it's my nature to engage in things that are more difficult.

~Ian MacKaye

Now anyone can move anywhere. I've made deep connections with

people around the world since I tour everywhere that I will simply never see again.

~Ian MacKaye

As hard as you try and create narratives about sports, once the ball is in the air, there's not a damn thing you can do about it, it's just very real.

~Ian MacKaye

There's also a lot of skateboard stuff, because I was a skateboarder. Somewhere around here I have one of my original boards.

~Ian MacKaye

The archiving industry, much like the funeral industry and the wedding industry, these industries can be very exploitative.

~Ian MacKaye

You had bands like D.O.A., or Black Flag, and a whole network opened up to trailblazer a counter culture movement. I'm more interested in the less sensational type of stories.

~Ian MacKaye

I have other projects to do. I try not to let that documentation interfere with my present day.

~Ian MacKaye

I'm a fifth generation Washingtonian and I was born and raised here. My kid's a sixth generation Washingtonian. Honestly I wish people didn't move because I love the people of the city.

~Ian MacKaye

We had punks literally protesting Fugazi. I respect a boycott. I respect a conscionable boycott, but of all bands to boycott? Fight crime. If you really want to get out there, go fight crime.

~Ian MacKaye

I'm basically in every band I ever was in, and the songs, I still mean them all. I don't take anything back, so I do look after them to some degree. But my main focus is on what I'm doing now.

~Ian MacKaye

When children start to speak they find their own voice by imitating the sounds around them. It would follow that bands do the same. Bands will find their own voice at some point.

~Ian MacKaye

I consider the piano my 'main' instrument and have been playing for as long as I can remember. It seems to me that I might have come up with something resembling a song as early as 4 or 5 years old.

~Ian MacKaye

We were not a band that typically would say, "Hello, Whatever Town!"

~Ian MacKaye

I was into Ted Nugent, I was a Nugent guy. I was a skateboarder listening to Ted Nugent.

~Ian MacKaye

I work so I don't need to make rent through my songs, and I think if more people engaged with music without needing it to provide for their welfare, you're not beholden to anyone.

~Ian MacKaye

I stand behind all the lyrics I've ever written; I don't have a problem with that.

~Ian MacKaye

Ultimately, if circumstances line-up in a way that makes it possible for

Fugazi to play and the desire was there, we would do that.

~Ian MacKaye

As far as the bands that are reforming now, it's always nice to see old friends and hear some of those great songs, but it's just not our thing.

~Ian MacKaye

In the 90s, there was a yahoo factor where there would be 50 people crowd surfing at one time! It was insane, and it had nothing to do with the music.

~Ian MacKaye

I don't watch TV but occasionally I'll read the Washington Post. I will say that sports are the only "real thing" on television.

~Ian MacKaye

For most people who have or who do identify as or with [song] Straight Edge, I feel like for most people, they're just trying to do the right thing.

~Ian MacKaye

When you're in a band and write a song on your own, it isn't fully realized until it goes into somebody else's ears.

~Ian MacKaye

I'm not a sports dude, but I'm interested in the sociological implications of it.

~Ian MacKaye

The amount of money that people spend on saving stuff, they try to feed you this idea that it's more important.

~Ian MacKaye

I obviously use computers. My car is wondrous. My phone is amazing. I've already talked about the music I'm digitizing. Technology is

fantastic, of course.

~Ian MacKaye

We're on tour for six months out of the year.

~Ian MacKaye

I have a lot of stuff. Slowly I'm getting all my materials organized.

~Ian MacKaye

When someone writes a really nasty piece about me. I think they're generally untrue because I think I'm a nice person.

~Ian MacKaye

I have thousands of tapes, and photos and fliers, letters, posters, artwork - basically everything that ever happened, I kept. I'm not a hoarder, though. I'm sort of a librarian.

~Ian MacKaye

Why do we celebrate the opening of a bar so much?

~Ian MacKaye

I appreciate the past, but I want to make new things. That's the problem with the sack on the back - if you carry it around with you, it's like you get hobbled.

~Ian MacKaye

My humor is very dry. To me it doesn't make sense.

~Ian MacKaye

Structures can be manipulated for ill as well, especially when people are dealing with issues of power, or control, or violence.

~Ian MacKaye

It makes me sad, the way human beings talk smack. It's why I don't like

irony. People are too gleeful to put some teeth into something.

~Ian MacKaye

I'm really anti-option, so computers have been my nightmare with recording. I don't want endless tracks; I want less tracks. I want decisions to be made.

~Ian MacKaye

Ultimately, I know what I'm doing and why I'm doing it. I'm trying to be a construction worker. I'm trying to make things. If people are not interested in that, fine. I just don't give a damn.

~Ian MacKaye

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