

# Igor Stravinsky

## Quotes

*Music, Art, Music Is, Men, Artist, Inspiration, Order, Love, Animal, Self, Years, Thinking, Real, Writing, Criticism, Talent, Today, Stealing, Childhood, Confused*

I have learned throughout my life as a composer chiefly through my mistakes and pursuits of false assumptions, not by my exposure to founts of wisdom and knowledge.

~Igor Stravinsky

I haven't understood a bar of music in my life, but I have felt it.

~Igor Stravinsky

One has a nose. The nose scents and it chooses. An artist is simply a kind of pig snouting truffles.

~Igor Stravinsky

My God, so much I like to drink Scotch that sometimes I think my name is Igor Stra-whiskey.

~Igor Stravinsky

Art is the opposite of chaos. Art is organized chaos.

~Igor Stravinsky

Why is it that whenever I hear a piece of music I don't like, it's always by Villa Lobos?

~Igor Stravinsky

Film music should have the same relationship to the film drama that somebody's piano playing in my living room has on the book I am reading.

~Igor Stravinsky

A good composer does not imitate; he steals.

~Igor Stravinsky

In order to create there must be a dynamic force, and what force is more potent than love?

~Igor Stravinsky

I take no pride in my artistic talents; they are God-given and I see absolutely no reason to become puffed up over something that one has received.

~Igor Stravinsky

Harpists spend 90 percent of their lives tuning their harps and 10 percent playing out of tune.

~Igor Stravinsky

Music's exclusive function is to structure the flow of time and keep order in it.

~Igor Stravinsky

Music is given to us with the sole purpose of establishing an order in things, including, and particularly, the coordination between man and time.

~Igor Stravinsky

Music is...the coordination between man and time.

~Igor Stravinsky

What force is more potent than love?

~Igor Stravinsky

To listen is an effort, and just to hear is no merit. A duck hears also.

~Igor Stravinsky

Lesser artists borrow, great artists steal.

~Igor Stravinsky

Art postulates communion, and the artist has an imperative need to make others share the joy which he experiences himself.

~Igor Stravinsky

The Church knew what the psalmist knew: Music praises God. Music is well or better able to praise him than the building of the church and all its decoration; it is the Church's greatest ornament.

~Igor Stravinsky

There is music wherever there is rhythm, as there is life wherever there beats a pulse.

~Igor Stravinsky

I know that the twelve notes in each octave and the variety of rhythm offer me opportunities that all of human genius will never exhaust.

~Igor Stravinsky

Too many pieces of music finish too long after the end.

~Igor Stravinsky

An artist is like a pig snouting truffles.

~Igor Stravinsky

Vivaldi didn't write 400 concertos; he wrote one concerto 400 times.

~Igor Stravinsky

Doomed to total failure in a deaf world of ignorance and indifference, he inexorably kept on cutting out his diamonds, his dazzling diamonds, of whose mines he had a perfect knowledge.

~Igor Stravinsky

What gives the artist real prestige is his imitators.

~Igor Stravinsky

The more constraints one imposes, the more one frees one's self. And the arbitrariness of the constraint serves only to obtain precision of execution.

~Igor Stravinsky

Composition is selective improvisation.

~Igor Stravinsky

My music is best understood by children and animals.

~Igor Stravinsky

A composer is not only an architect but also an inventor, and he should not build houses in which he cannot live.

~Igor Stravinsky

The trouble with music appreciation in general is that people are taught to have too much respect for music they should be taught to love it instead.

~Igor Stravinsky

Is it not by love alone that we succeed in penetrating to the very essence of being?

~Igor Stravinsky

The faculty of creating is never given to us all by itself. It always goes hand in hand with the gift of observation.

~Igor Stravinsky

A cultural snob is someone who claims to be familiar with the incomprehensible.

~Igor Stravinsky

The real composer thinks about his work the whole time; he is not always conscious of this, but he is aware of it later when he suddenly knows what he will do.

~Igor Stravinsky

My childhood was a period of waiting for the moment when I could send everyone and everything connected with it to hell.

~Igor Stravinsky

Conductors' careers are made for the most part with 'Romantic' music. 'Classic' music eliminates the conductor; we do not remember him in it.

~Igor Stravinsky

The profound meaning of music's essential aim... is to produce a communion, a union of man with his fellow man with the Supreme Being

~Igor Stravinsky

Old age is a time of humiliations, the most disagreeable of which, for me, is that I cannot work long at sustained high pressure with no leaks in concentration.

~Igor Stravinsky

The true creator may be recognized by his ability always to find about him, in the commonest and humblest thing, items worthy of note.

~Igor Stravinsky

Music is the sole domain in which man realizes the present.

~Igor Stravinsky

To be deprived of art and left alone with philosophy is to be close to Hell.

~Igor Stravinsky

Composers combine notes, that's all.

~Igor Stravinsky

All music is nothing more than a succession of impulses that converge towards a definite point of repose.

~Igor Stravinsky

The further one separates himself from the precepts of the Christian Church, the further one distances himself from the truth. Only God can create. I make music from music.

~Igor Stravinsky

The principle of the endless melody is the perpetual becoming of a music that never had any reason for starting, any more than it has any reason for ending.

~Igor Stravinsky

An audience is an abstraction; it has no taste. It must depend on the only person who has (pardon, should have), the conductor.

~Igor Stravinsky

Just as appetite comes by eating, so work brings inspiration, if inspiration is not discernible at the beginning.

~Igor Stravinsky

All you have to do is close your eyes and wait for the symbols.

~Igor Stravinsky

Silence will save me from being wrong (and foolish), but it will also deprive me of the possibility of being right.

~Igor Stravinsky

Music must be listened to; it is not enough to hear it. A duck hears also.

~Igor Stravinsky

It's one of nature's way that we often feel closer to distant generations than to the generation immediately preceding us.

~Igor Stravinsky

Music is given to us specifically to make order of things, to move from

an anarchic, individualistic state to a regulated, perfectly conscious one, which alone insures vitality and durability.

~Igor Stravinsky

Revolution means turning the wheel.

~Igor Stravinsky

The more constraints one imposes, the more one frees one

~Igor Stravinsky

I had another dream the other day about music critics. They were small and rodent-like with padlocked ears, as if they had stepped out of a painting by Goya.

~Igor Stravinsky

Sins cannot be undone, only forgiven.

~Igor Stravinsky

Music is, by its very nature, essentially powerless to express anything at all. Music expresses itself.

~Igor Stravinsky

Look for the music on all things, and life will be a symphony of joy. My music is best understood by children and animals.

~Igor Stravinsky

I never understood the need for a "live" audience. My music, because of its extreme quietude, would be happiest with a dead one.

~Igor Stravinsky

The more controlled, limited and tormented art is, the freer it is.

~Igor Stravinsky

Invention presupposes imagination but should not be confused with it.



~Igor Stravinsky

I wonder if memory is true, and I know that it cannot be, but that one lives by memory nevertheless and not by truth.

~Igor Stravinsky

Hurry? I have no time to hurry.

~Igor Stravinsky

I am an inventor of music.

~Igor Stravinsky

I never am sea sick, never. I am sea drunk!

~Igor Stravinsky

It is my conviction that the public always shows itself more honest in its spontaneity than do those who officially set themselves up as judges of works of art.

~Igor Stravinsky

To continue in one path is to go backward.

~Igor Stravinsky

Composition is frozen improvisation.

~Igor Stravinsky

We have a duty towards music, namely, to invent it.

~Igor Stravinsky

We cannot describe sound, but we cannot forget it either.

~Igor Stravinsky

Conformism is so hot on the heels of the mass-produced avant-garde that the 'ins' and the 'outs' change places with the speed of mach 3.

~Igor Stravinsky

The performance of performance has developed to such an extent in recent years that it challenges the music itself and will soon threaten it with relegation.

~Igor Stravinsky

We can neither put back the clock nor slow down our forward speed, and as we are already flying pilotless, on instrument controls, it is even too late to ask where we are going.

~Igor Stravinsky

Silence, which will save from shame, will also deprive me of fame.

~Igor Stravinsky

The one true comment on a piece of music is another piece of music.

~Igor Stravinsky

What I cannot follow are the manic-depressive fluctuations from total control to no control, from the serialization of all elements to chance.

~Igor Stravinsky

I knew I had to write a Mass of my own, but a real one.

~Igor Stravinsky

Nothing is likely about masterpieces, least of all whether there will be any.

~Igor Stravinsky

Good composers don't borrow, they steal

~Igor Stravinsky

Money may kindle, but it cannot by itself, and for very long, burn.

~Igor Stravinsky

The trick is to compose what one wants to compose and to get it commissioned afterward.

~Igor Stravinsky

Mediocrity borrows, genius steals.

~Igor Stravinsky

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