

# Johannes Brahms

## Quotes

*Music, Ideas, Real, Tables, Lying, Writing, Men, Notes, Mind, Facts, Study, Ease, Melody, People, Inspiration, Taste, Symphony, Variation, Insulted Him, Stealing*

Without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind.

~Johannes Brahms

One should never forget that by actually perfecting one piece one gains and learns more than by starting or half-finishing a dozen.

~Johannes Brahms

The idea comes to me from outside of me - and is like a gift. I then take the idea and make it my own - that is where the skill lies.

~Johannes Brahms

Study Bach. There you will find everything.

~Johannes Brahms

If there is anyone here whom I have not insulted, I beg his pardon.

~Johannes Brahms

Reviewer: 'One of your themes was very similar to one of Beethoven's!' Brahms replied, 'Of course it is. Everyone steals - the important thing is to do it brilliantly.'

~Johannes Brahms

It is a real pleasure to see music so bright and spontaneous expressed with corresponding ease and grace.

~Johannes Brahms

It is not hard to compose, but what is fabulously hard is to leave the superfluous notes under the table.

~Johannes Brahms

If we cannot write with the beauty of Mozart, let us at least try to write with his purity.

~Johannes Brahms

The only true immortality lies in one's children.

~Johannes Brahms

Straight-away the ideas flow in upon me, directly from God, and not only do I see distinct themes in my mind's eye, but they are clothed in the right forms, harmonies, and orchestration.

~Johannes Brahms

It is not hard to compose but it is wonderfully hard to let the superfluous notes fall under the table. . . So many melodies fly about, one must be careful not to tread on them.

~Johannes Brahms

My things really are written with an appalling lack of practicality!

~Johannes Brahms

How lucky is the man who, like Mozart and others, goes to the tavern of an evening and writes some fresh music. For he lives while he is creating.

~Johannes Brahms

The fact that most people do not understand and respect the very best things, such as Mozart's concertos, is what permits men like us to become famous.

~Johannes Brahms

To follow in Beethoven's footsteps transcends one's strength.

~Johannes Brahms

Those are miracles that no merely human brain can work. The artist is merely the sound conduct of a Force that dictates to him what he should do.

~Johannes Brahms

A symphony is no joke.

~Johannes Brahms

Ah, that tastes nice. Thank you.

~Johannes Brahms

Composers in the old days used to keep strictly to the base of the theme, as their real subject. Beethoven varies the melody, harmony and rhythms so beautifully.

~Johannes Brahms

Straightaway the ideas flow in upon me, directly from God.

~Johannes Brahms

We cling nervously to the melody, but we don't handle it freely, we don't really make anything new out of it, we merely overload it.

~Johannes Brahms

For the shallow delights of matrimony and opera I have no courage.

~Johannes Brahms

Never criticize the composition of a Royal Highness. You never know who may have written it.

~Johannes Brahms

What would become of all historical biography if it was written only with consideration for other peoples' feelings?

~Johannes Brahms

I sometimes ponder on variation form and it seems to me it ought to be more restrained, purer.

~Johannes Brahms

### **Related Links:**

- Music Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Real Quotes
- Tables Quotes
- Lying Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Notes Quotes
- Mind Quotes
- Facts Quotes
- Study Quotes
- Ease Quotes
- Melody Quotes
- People Quotes
- Inspiration Quotes
- Taste Quotes
- Symphony Quotes
- Variation Quotes
- Insulted Him Quotes
- Stealing Quotes