

John McLaughlin

Quotes

*Musician, Spiritual, Order, Play, Thinking, Trying, Giving, Guitar, Way, Use,
School, Growing, Believe, Life Is, People, Notes, Feelings, Inspiration, Band,
Writing*

Only in spontaneity can we be who we truly are.

~John McLaughlin

The whole point of working and practicing your whole life is so that you're ready when that moment arrives; when the inspiration arrives, you are ready to be at the disposal of inspiration.

~John McLaughlin

Music speaks from spirit to spirit and in that sense you could call it a true spiritual language.

~John McLaughlin

Spirituality is worthless if it's not practical. Music is my work. I am a musician.

~John McLaughlin

I practice all the scales. Everyone should know lots of scales. Actually, I feel there are only scales. What is a chord, if not the notes of a scale hooked together?

~John McLaughlin

My entire life is dedicated to music, and at my age, that makes a lot of years! But all the work and dedication is only that I'm able to forget myself and let the music do the 'talking.'

~John McLaughlin

There are two kinds of success. One is musical or artistic and the other is commercial.

~John McLaughlin

I'm not any different from you or the guy down the street or across the globe, we're all connected in some way and hopefully my music can integrate that feeling of human connectedness.

~John McLaughlin

I don't have any particular goals in making a recording. In a way the recording is itself the goal. The music comes into my mind, and from there the main job is to give form to it.

~John McLaughlin

I believe everybody is spiritual and no one is any more spiritual than anyone else.

~John McLaughlin

I'm never trying to preach to anybody with my music, but I'm aware of the universal nature of the human experience and I try to reach out and connect with people in that manner.

~John McLaughlin

The music dictates to me which instrument I use. I'm basically waiting for orders as it were.

~John McLaughlin

For me, rhythm is a type of divine mathematics in a way. No matter where you're from, we can all understand the mathematics of rhythm. I try to apply this mathematical thinking to my playing.

~John McLaughlin

When you open box after box of old comics and they're ALL "Archie," you have suffered a trauma from which it is difficult to ever recover.

~John McLaughlin

I never read comics growing up. I didn't have money and I don't like to touch paper.

~John McLaughlin

At the risk of sounding hopelessly romantic, love is the key element. I really love to play with different musicians who come from different cultural backgrounds.

~John McLaughlin

The moment you start to talk about playing music, you destroy music. It cannot be talked about. It can only be played, enjoyed and listened to.

~John McLaughlin

When the music arrives in my mind, it gives me the direction and the form at the same time. It's integrated into the music itself.

~John McLaughlin

There is really no spiritual message that I'm trying to convey with my music, it's just a personal thing. I really believe that the more personal we get, in a way, the more universal the implications.

~John McLaughlin

I just want to keep exploring music and hopefully the orders will keep coming in and I'll be able to keep growing the interior and exterior sides of my life.

~John McLaughlin

When I hear a great musician, I can feel his life inside the music.

~John McLaughlin

Music that touches the transcendental aspect of a human being is reserved for a marginal audience

~John McLaughlin

Interplay and interaction are the integral parts of music - they're as important as the notes.

~John McLaughlin

Everyone can lock into the rhythm on a tune. It's organic in nature. It connects the band as a whole and connects the band to the audience.

~John McLaughlin

In a way records are like paintings. Instead of using paints and brushes we use sounds and instruments.

~John McLaughlin

The mathematics of rhythm are universal. They don't belong to any particular culture.

~John McLaughlin

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