

John Zorn Quotes

*People, Mean, Thinking, Way, Trying, Writing, Children, Cities, Art, Believe,
Challenges, Interesting, Years, Together, Beautiful, Running, Giving, Sound,
Creative, Needs*

Great musicians accept everything that they hear and find something good. They take what they like and they throw away what they don't like

~John Zorn

I see myself and many artists like me as the torchbearers through these dark ages.

~John Zorn

If you can make art with sound, can't you make music with objects?

~John Zorn

Eye was a great discovery. He is one of the great vocalists of all time.

~John Zorn

We're not on the outside looking in, we're on the outside looking out.

~John Zorn

I'm constantly tortured, and that's why I say happiness is irrelevant. Happiness is for children and yuppies.

~John Zorn

I feel like there are messages. I feel like there are angels. I feel that there is a legacy and an energy. And I feel that it's possible to tap into that.

~John Zorn

It's a matter of keeping people on a spontaneous edge.

~John Zorn

I have wit in my work and a sense of humor, but I do not use irony in any way

~John Zorn

You need to believe in something that's bigger than yourself. I think that's what everybody wants to believe in that.

~John Zorn

One of the reasons I started Tzadik, which is my own label, is to keep things in print. I got tired of labels dropping things out of print when they don't sell.

~John Zorn

I have about two or three people, we don't have an office, we don't even have a dedicated phone line. We do it out of our own homes, and we make it work.

~John Zorn

It's a blast to watch. It's a lot more interesting live than it is on record. I mean, it really is a theatrical event. It's a sporting event! Cause you never know what's gonna happen.

~John Zorn

One thing that I do ask myself when I'm in the creative process is, 'Does the world need this?'

~John Zorn

When I'm writing, sometimes it gets to that place where I feel like the piece is writing itself and I'm trying not to get in the way

~John Zorn

The idealists will always be in society, and we will survive

~John Zorn

You can't be idealistic in this world and not be crazy

~John Zorn

And I try to be as diplomatic as I can, but it always ends up being a

psychodrama up there on stage.

~John Zorn

Music is about people for me. It's not about sounds. It's about people; it's about putting people into challenging situations. And for me, challenges are opportunities.

~John Zorn

Discipline is important as long as you're having a good time. What I always did was I did what I enjoyed, and I think that's why I don't have any grey hairs.

~John Zorn

I have no doubts. I know what gets in the way and I know what encourages me to do more work.

~John Zorn

I mean I have had a very combative relationship with critics because I'm very impatient with people that don't give my work the respect I feel it deserves.

~John Zorn

I was always an outsider, proud of being an outsider. I always reveled in the outsiders.

~John Zorn

My solo music - I get up onstage, I improvise and it's my improvisation. When I get up onstage with Fred Frith and Mike Patton, then we're improvising together. Then it's not my music; it's our music.

~John Zorn

People sometimes have a very hard time accepting change.

~John Zorn

I put together the influences of my life in as clear a way as I possibly can, in the same way that Beethoven or Schoenberg or Bach put their influences together.

~John Zorn

As soon as you get a certain amount of attention, then everybody kinda wants to start taking pot shots at you. All your old friends that supported you don't support you any more.

~John Zorn

That was my challenge as a composer. Like with anything, to keep yourself interested in doing what you do, you set yourself challenges. So I said, Okay, I'll try to write a hundred tunes in a year.

~John Zorn

I have not practiced saxophone since 1980. I mean, not one note. I do not pick it up in my house, and that's the end of it.

~John Zorn

No one sits in front of a drum set and thinks they invented it all out of whole cloth. The fact that the set is there means that you've got some dues to pay to Baby Dodds.

~John Zorn

I'm not a practicing kabbalist. I'm not a spiritual master. I'm not a rabbi. I don't - but it's part of who I am.

~John Zorn

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