# Jon Gordon Quotes

School, People, Thinking, Art, Years, Men, Guy, Mother, Blessed, Littles, Motivational, Competition, Player, Nice, College, Play, Believe, Night, Records, Teacher Positivity is like a boomerang. The more we put it out there, the more it comes back to us.

~Jon Gordon

Successful people do ordinary things with extraordinary consistency, commitment and focus.

~Jon Gordon

The goal is not to be better than anyone else but rather be better than you were yesterday.

~Jon Gordon

Being positive won't guarantee you'll succeed. But being negative will guarantee you won't.

~Jon Gordon

Great leaders don't succeed because they are great. They succeed because they bring out the greatness in others.

~Jon Gordon

Leadership is not just about what you do but what you can inspire, encourage and empower others to do.

~Jon Gordon

You need to work as hard to be a great teammate as you do to be a great player

~Jon Gordon

Purpose is the ultimate fuel for our journey through life. When we drive with purpose we don't get tired or bored and our engines don't burn out.

#### ~Jon Gordon

Adversity is not a dead end but a detour to a better outcome than you

can imagine! ~Jon Gordon

No challenge can stop you if you have the courage to keep moving forward in the face of your greatest fears and biggest challenges. Be courageous.

~Jon Gordon

So often the difference between success and failure is belief. Belief leads to action and execution.

~Jon Gordon

My life is a gift not an obligation and I Get To make the most of it. ~Jon Gordon

Your optimism today will determine your level of success tomorrow. ~Jon Gordon

The only person who can limit your possibilities is you.

~Jon Gordon

If you think your best days are behind you, they are. If you think your best days are ahead of you, they are.

~Jon Gordon

## Challenges ONLY make you STRONGER!!!

~Jon Gordon

Don't let negative people drain your energy. Focus on your positive energy and kill them with kindness. Energy vampires are no match for your positive energy.

~Jon Gordon

Instead of being disappointed about where you are, be optimistic about

where you are going.

~Jon Gordon

Remember, you have only one ride through life so give it all you got and enjoy the ride.

~Jon Gordon

You are not a true success unless you are helping others be successful.

~Jon Gordon

Don't waste your energy on those who don't get on your bus. ~Jon Gordon

Love is the answer for the team's success.

~Jon Gordon

Only through service and sacrifice can you become great.

~Jon Gordon

Everyone wants to do what the great ones do; but very few are willing to do what they did to become great

~Jon Gordon

You can't be a great leader if all you are serving is yourself. ~Jon Gordon

Every morning you have a choice. Are you going to be a positive thinker or a negative thinker? Positive thinking will energize you. ~Jon Gordon

One negative person can create a miserable office environment for everyone else.

We often have to lose what we thought we wanted to find what God wants for us

~Jon Gordon

The secret to life and the greatest success strategy of all is to love all of it and fear none of it.

~Jon Gordon

The first CD I had, that I think had had any redeeming qualities to it, I did when I was 25 with a relatively small label called Chiarascuro. ~Jon Gordon

Don't chase success. Decide to make a difference and success will find you.

~Jon Gordon

Failure is not meant to be final and fatal.... It is meant to refine you to be all that you are meant to be.

~Jon Gordon

Optimism is a competitive advantage.

~Jon Gordon

When you experience resistance, you find the lessons that you are meant to learn

~Jon Gordon

Thoughts are magnetic. What we think about we attract.

~Jon Gordon

Love the process and you'll love what the process produces.

~Jon Gordon

It's not easy to deal with the negativity in the world but it's something

that's got to be done. Your success and life are so important that you must surround yourself with a positive support team.

~Jon Gordon

Joe Henderson with Ron Carter and Al Foster at the Vanguard was just wow. And the energy of the three of them.

~Jon Gordon

I don't want my children to be what I want them to be. I want them to become everything God created them to be.

~Jon Gordon

Anyone who attempts to build great things will face challenges. ~Jon Gordon

Another classical music teacher from Performing Arts that I've stayed in contact with is Jonathan Strasser.

~Jon Gordon

If I could have picked two guys on the planet, to have some exposure to at that age, those were the two right guys [Phil Woods and Charles McPherson].

~Jon Gordon

When you fuel up with purpose you find the excitement in the mundane, the passion in the everyday, the extraordinary in the ordinary. ~Jon Gordon

You fuel your life with trust and love instead of fear and doubt.

~Jon Gordon

If you are complaining you can't be thinking about or creating what you do want.

A true leader doesn't lead to gain power. They lead to empower and give power away.

~Jon Gordon

I would sit in at a jazz brunch [at sweet Basil] with Eddie Chamblee, who was a great tenor player. Really a kind man. The whole band was great.

~Jon Gordon

I have to say, music was always my self preservation survival technique. This sort of sacred space in my life and in my mind. ~Jon Gordon

We still talk about [school band]. Almost 40 years later. It's like people are talking about, "Man we need to have a morning band reunion". ~Jon Gordon

Walk down Forest Ave to Joey's Pizza like we used to do after performances, which doesn't exist anymore. We had a sense of community [in the school band].

~Jon Gordon

Letting people share their gifts and strengths is real love.

~Jon Gordon

[Phil Wood] was a great artist, and he knew things. He could be mildly conversant in several languages.

~Jon Gordon

I just lucked into a lot of good people man. In my life and through friends, and in the music, that really embraced me and took care of me. I'm a lucky guy.

[My mother] told me a little bit about the scene out there and I think, as a small child, I just always felt a connection to that history because my mother had described it to me.

~Jon Gordon

My mother was a singer, and I never heard her sing a note in my life. ~Jon Gordon

Dust on gold doesn't change the nature of gold. ~Jon Gordon

Pretty fortunate that with the exception of two months when I was 23, that I worked in a law office pushing paper around. I was always able to eke out a living somehow. So I'm blessed.

~Jon Gordon

Enthusiasm attracts more passengers and energizes them during the ride.

~Jon Gordon

Negative people often tend to create negative cultures whereas positive corporate cultures are created by positive people.

~Jon Gordon

[My mother told me] stories about Nat King Cole, and Miles Davis, and seeing pictures in later years with band leaders like Alvino Ray. ~Jon Gordon

We listened [with my mother] to [Frank] Sinatra and Glen Campbell and we had some Beatles records that I liked. This was in the '70s. ~Jon Gordon

We [with my mother] listened to music when I was a kid. We listened to a little bit of Bob's [Gordon] music, but just a little, I think it was too

painful for her.

All we can do is go about our work. But we can have a goal. We can have a dream.

~Jon Gordon

I just think that I associated music with something that was healing and transformative as a kid.

~Jon Gordon

[Phil Wood] knew about wine. He knew about food. He knew about art. He knew about classical music. He was interested in things.

~Jon Gordon

I never got discouraged for long, but we all got our butts kicked musically.

~Jon Gordon

I asked all through third, fourth and fifth grade, when they were asking kids to be in the band, to be in the school band. But they wouldn't let me do it.

~Jon Gordon

I definitely had some moments, where, "Wow, these were some hard chords" on some gig.

~Jon Gordon

I was in choir [at school].

~Jon Gordon

Definitely I had a lot of times where I was really hard on myself. Really frustrated. But I never felt like I had someplace else to go. Just had to stay here and deal with this.

~Jon Gordon

I was occasionally getting calls for some things. But I would say, 22 to 29 was a lot of scuffling. Hoping to get called for bad wedding gigs and I did do an off-Broadway show for about 15 months. ~Jon Gordon

There were some things I was going and doing in Europe a little bit. Some festivals that brought me over. That was good. Some touring I did over there. But there was nothing major [from 22 to 29]. ~Jon Gordon

The first jazz cruise that I was on was '91. I played with Maria Schneider and John Fedchock's band. Got to meet some amazing people that week.

~Jon Gordon

Things dribbled in in dribs and drabs through my 20s. But it was a struggle.

~Jon Gordon

The streets weren't paved with gold and Rose petals [when I was young]. "Do I have a horn to sell this month to pay my rent, or what am I going to do?" It was what it was.

~Jon Gordon

The goal in life is to live young, have fun, and arrive at your final destination as late as possible, with a smile on your face.

~Jon Gordon

[Winning the Thelonious Monk International Saxophone Competition]definitely opened some doors.

## Bob [Gordon] died young tragically.

~Jon Gordon

When [Charlie Parker] saw the young guys, especially the ones that were scuffling... "Did you eat today?" And if you hadn't eaten, he'd take you and buy you some lunch.

~Jon Gordon

Life and success are about what you choose to believe. ~Jon Gordon

You hear about the struggles with substances and all that, but [Phil Wood] was a really a great guy. This was a great man. ~Jon Gordon

When I was a kid, I always saw these pictures of a man called Bob Gordon with a baritone saxophone, who I understood was my father. Turns out he wasn't. He was my mother's first husband. ~Jon Gordon

If you want to make [your own way in music] it as a player, which is very difficult, as Art Blakey said to me, "We're blessed to have the opportunity to do this." So just keep that in mind.

~Jon Gordon

There is a very small chance that you might be really brilliant and really talented.

~Jon Gordon

If you go with that spirit, good things will come for you. If you go into it with an assumption that you're a genius and that you're entitled to something, it's a little tougher.

There are a lot of different ways you can be a part of this music and love it and make a contribution that's personal to you.

~Jon Gordon

You do [jazz] because you love it and hope many some others may as well. You do this because you need it.

~Jon Gordon

Negative thoughts are the nails that build a prison of failure. ~Jon Gordon

[We need] someone like Don Sickler, who is an amazing trumpet player and who is also a publisher and amazing producer and composer and arranger. There's a lot of ways you can make a contribution. ~Jon Gordon

Now we also need people who just love to listen to the music. And we need people that want to work to facilitate it. That want to do work, have somebody like Bret Primack, the jazz video guy.

~Jon Gordon

Teaching has definitely become a big part of my life in the past ten plus years. As it often does for many dedicated players. Because you can have some great gigs.

~Jon Gordon

I think that's important to remember - That we're blessed to even be able to attempt to do this [music].

~Jon Gordon

I remember Art Blakey saying to me, "Just remember, we're blessed to do what we do."

Phil [Wood] was very passionate. Very committed. He felt very blessed that the people that cared about him and took him aside... if he was out of line or drinking too much, being too surly.

~Jon Gordon

[Manhattan School Of Music] didn't' have a jazz undergraduate program at the time so I played a semester in the big band. There was a graduate program. But I wasn't really that involved in jazz yet. ~Jon Gordon

I had a really nice association with Richie DeRosa, a great musician, a great drummer and composer and arranger. And I had a number of classes with him.

~Jon Gordon

Justin Di Cioccio led a jazz program at Music and Art, but there was no jazz in Performing Arts. After they joined, it became Laguardia School of Arts.

~Jon Gordon

I never really had a classical saxophone set-up. I just had a middle of the road set up.

~Jon Gordon

I took some comp for non-comp major classes with Giacomo Bracali and Ludmila Ulela, who was a really famous composition teacher. ~Jon Gordon

The Monk competition did open some doors. And I was thankful for that.

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