

Lee Konitz

Quotes

Play, Music, Way, Player, Jazz, Firsts, Special, Names, Thinking, Sound, Car, Doe, Night, Doing Me, Kids, Long, Real, Indian, Vocabulary, Double Standard

In some ways Lester Young is the most complex rhythmically of any musician. He does some things which are just phenomenal.

~Lee Konitz

I understood that if I wanted to work, the saxophone was the main instrument. The clarinet was what we call a double.

~Lee Konitz

Benny Goodman was one of the big influences as a clarinet player. That's why I wanted the clarinet.

~Lee Konitz

I love Indian music very much, but I haven't studied that specifically.

~Lee Konitz

I always felt as a horn player, a jam session wasn't satisfying enough for me. I should have been a rhythm section player, actually.

~Lee Konitz

I could stop and say, Well that was a D minor, G seven, but I really don't want to know that. I just want to know that there's a combination of notes that makes a sound.

~Lee Konitz

Most jazz players work out their solos, at least to the extent that they have a very specific vocabulary.

~Lee Konitz

As long as there are people trying to play music in a sincere way, there will be Jazz.

~Lee Konitz

After playing now for 60 years, it's still very challenging for me to play a simple melody and have it clean and touch the reed at the proper time

in the proper way.

~Lee Konitz

A first love always occupies a special place.

~Lee Konitz

I'd like to feel that whatever I play is a result of whatever I've heard.

~Lee Konitz

I have been able to get a small audience. It's not the huge audience, but it's enough to make it possible to play. I appreciate that.

~Lee Konitz

Bernstein grew up in my building in New York. He's a very, very fine player. When he was a kid, he came by to find out what was going on in the world of jazz.

~Lee Konitz

That's kind of my goal: to build a new row of meaningful tones.

~Lee Konitz

You just keep playing. If someone special comes along and organizes it in a new way, then you'll have another approach and everybody will jump on it to try to learn.

~Lee Konitz

Sound is the first thing that we tune into.

~Lee Konitz

Many people do think it's naive to improvise in front of paying customers. I'm not saying one way is better than another.

~Lee Konitz

It's very demanding to make up your own music.

~Lee Konitz

Names and theoretical things don't occur to me. If they do, I'm not doing my real playing mode.

~Lee Konitz

We all learn from each other, and I never really hung out with guys in that way, so I missed out.

~Lee Konitz

Out of Coltrane's whole history, there are things which I think are great from all the periods.

~Lee Konitz

Labels don't mean anything to me. I'm trying to play as passionately as I'm able to. If they want to call that cool, that's fine. Just spell the name right, is the formula.

~Lee Konitz

I listen to classical music very much. There's a lot of jazz that I don't enjoy listening to.

~Lee Konitz

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