

# Leo Kottke

## Quotes

*Thinking, Guitar, Sound, Want, Records, Trying, Air, Jobs, Fun, Boys, Night,  
Teacher, Looks, Library, Force, Giving, Exercise, Lines, Would Be, Way*

The principle element in a performance is risk, and if you're losing interest then by scaring yourself to death the audience will feel it and boy it'll wake them up.

~Leo Kottke

All bad jazz sounds like Woody Woodpecker.

~Leo Kottke

I had been playing single note instruments and I wanted to hear a guitar played as a piano.

~Leo Kottke

I think if you are writing an instrumental you are dealing with more of an aesthetic in a sense but a lyric is more of a putting yourself on the line and a much more expensive exercise.

~Leo Kottke

I am evidence that you don't have to sell a lot of records or succeed in the usual way to have a big audience and a job.

~Leo Kottke

The bulk of my set is instrumental and you have to give yourself and the audience some relief because a performance is not about great guitar playing it's really about entertainment.

~Leo Kottke

I was taking a nose dive somewhere between eleven and twelve because my sister had died and I was practicing something that siblings do which is follow in their footsteps and die as well.

~Leo Kottke

The first music I was exposed to was Stravinsky and I loved it but I don't remember it.

~Leo Kottke

Musically, I am still hooked and just hypnotized by the sound of the guitar itself. I mean, a guitar sounds good if you drop it on the floor.

~Leo Kottke

I have always thought of myself as a performer first and way down the line as a recording artist.

~Leo Kottke

I would say that if you don't feel like talking to the crowd something is wrong and if you force yourself to talk to them things will happen and to that extent things aren't choreographed.

~Leo Kottke

With all these great (guitar teachers) around here, don't cop their licks, **COP THEIR ATTITUDE.**

~Leo Kottke

You can't really tell what the audience wants but you can tell what will keep everybody's attention in the same place.

~Leo Kottke

I do have a library of events I can talk about and I always expect to find a different point of view on it so even if I talk about the same event in the same town it's fresh.

~Leo Kottke

When the audience is awful you can still have a great night and people will walk out thinking they had a great time even though there was loads of loudmouths and the sound was terrible.

~Leo Kottke

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