

Miles Davis Quotes

*Play, Music, Jazz, Mean, Men, People, Thinking, Sound, Notes, Writing, Want,
Way, Musician, Years, Guy, Drummer, White, Guitar, Machines, Knows*

Anybody can play. The note is only 20 percent. The attitude of the motherfucker who plays it is 80 percent.

~Miles Davis

It's not the note you play that's the wrong note - it's the note you play afterwards that makes it right or wrong.

~Miles Davis

If somebody told me I only had an hour to live, I'd spend it choking a white man. I'd do it nice and slow.

~Miles Davis

It's not about standing still and becoming safe. If anybody wants to keep creating they have to be about change.

~Miles Davis

In music, silence is more important than sound.

~Miles Davis

I'm always thinking about creating. My future starts when I wake up every morning... Every day I find something creative to do with my life.

~Miles Davis

Knowledge is freedom and ignorance is slavery

~Miles Davis

Sometimes you have to play a long time to be able to play like yourself.

~Miles Davis

Do not fear mistakes. There are none.

~Miles Davis

If you sacrifice your art because of some woman, or some man, or for some color, or for some wealth, you can't be trusted.

~Miles Davis

A painting is music you can see and music is a painting you can hear.

~Miles Davis

If you're not nervous then you're not paying attention.

~Miles Davis

We don't play to be seen. I'm addicted to music, not audiences.

~Miles Davis

You have to know 400 notes that you can play, then pick the right four.

~Miles Davis

Jazz is the big brother of Revolution. Revolution follows it around.

~Miles Davis

First you imitate, then you innovate.

~Miles Davis

Always listen for what you can leave out.

~Miles Davis

To keep creating you have to be about change.

~Miles Davis

Don't worry about playing a lot of notes. Just find one pretty one.

~Miles Davis

Some day I'm gonna call me up on the phone, so when I answer, I can tell myself to shut up.

~Miles Davis

Good music is good no matter what kind of music it is.

~Miles Davis

I'll play it first and figure out what it's called later.

~Miles Davis

People will go for anything they don't understand if it's got enough hype.

~Miles Davis

My future starts when I wake up every morning.

~Miles Davis

For me, music and life are all about style.

~Miles Davis

Bebop didn't have the humanity of Duke Ellington. It didn't even have that recognizable thing. Bird and Diz were great, fantastic, challenging â€” but they weren't sweet.

~Miles Davis

You should never be comfortable, man. Being comfortable fouled up a lot of musicians.

~Miles Davis

I can tell whether a person can play just by the way he stands.

~Miles Davis

Music is the framework around the silence.

~Miles Davis

In other words, an instrument should be an extension of you; it's supposed to sound like you - the way you walk, the way you dress, you know.

~Miles Davis

The thing to judge in any jazz artist is, does the man project and does he have ideas.

~Miles Davis

My ego only needs a good rhythm section

~Miles Davis

It takes a long time to sound like yourself.

~Miles Davis

White folks always think that you have to have a label on everything - you know what I mean?

~Miles Davis

What's swinging in words? If a guy makes you pat your foot and if you feel it down your back, you don't have to ask anybody if that's good music or not. You can always feel it.

~Miles Davis

I like Stan [Getz], because he has so much patience, the way he plays those melodies - other people can't get nothing out of a song, but he can, which takes a lot of imagination.

~Miles Davis

I don't pay no attention to what critics say about me, the good or the bad. The toughest critic I got is myself...and I'm too vain to play anything I think is bad.

~Miles Davis

At least one day out of the year all musicians should just put their instruments down, and give thanks to Duke Ellington.

~Miles Davis

It took me twenty years study and practice to work up to what I wanted

to play in this performance. How can she expect to listen five minutes and understand it?

~Miles Davis

I never thought Jazz was meant to be a museum piece like other dead things once considered artistic.

~Miles Davis

Don't play what's there, play what's not there.

~Miles Davis

You know why I quit playing ballads? Cause I love playing ballads.

~Miles Davis

A legend is an old man with a cane known for what he used to do. I'm still doing it.

~Miles Davis

You have to practice for a long time before you can learn to sound like yourself

~Miles Davis

There are no wrong notes in jazz: only notes in the wrong places.

~Miles Davis

My father's rich, my momma's good looking. Right? And I can play the Blues. I've never suffered and don't intend to suffer.

~Miles Davis

It's not the notes you play, it's the notes you don't play.

~Miles Davis

I know what I've done for music, but don't call me a legend. Just call me Miles Davis.

~Miles Davis

All my inspiration comes from Ahmad Jamal.

~Miles Davis

Always look ahead, but never look back.

~Miles Davis

Jazz is like blues with a shot of heroin!

~Miles Davis

That was my gift . . . having the ability to put certain guys together that would create a chemistry and then letting them go; letting them play what they knew, and above it.

~Miles Davis

Food makes my mind sluggish.

~Miles Davis

The way you change and help music is by tryin' to invent new ways to play

~Miles Davis

If you love them in the morning with their eyes full of crust; if you love them at night with their hair full of rollers, chances are, you're in love.

~Miles Davis

If you hit a wrong note, it's the next note that you play that determines if it's good or bad.

~Miles Davis

It's like, how did Columbus discover America when the Indians were already here? What kind of s-- is that, but white people's s--?

~Miles Davis

I've always told the musicians in my band to play what they know and then play above that. Because then anything can happen, and that's where great art and music happens.

~Miles Davis

I ain't no entertainer, and ain't trying to be one. I am one thing, a musician.

~Miles Davis

Don't be afraid of mistakes - There are none.

~Miles Davis

The only reason to write a new song is because you're tired of the old ones.

~Miles Davis

Look, man, all I am is a trumpet player.

~Miles Davis

If you don't know what to play, play nothing.

~Miles Davis

In improvisation, there are no mistakes.

~Miles Davis

In high school I was best in music class on the trumpet, but the prizes went to the boys with blue eyes. I made up my mind to outdo anybody white on my horn.

~Miles Davis

When the band plays fast, you play slow; when the band plays slow, you play fast.

~Miles Davis

You can tell whether a person plays well or not by the way he carries the instrument, whether it means something to him or not.

~Miles Davis

I don't care if a dude is purple with green breath as long as he can swing.

~Miles Davis

If you understood everything I say, you'd be me!

~Miles Davis

Coltrane, you cant play everything at once!

~Miles Davis

If you're trying to be hip, be hip.

~Miles Davis

I still got my Ferrari.

~Miles Davis

I don't like to hear someone put down dixieland. Those people who say there's no music but bop are just stupid; it shows how much they don't know.

~Miles Davis

I always listen to what I can leave out.

~Miles Davis

I usually write from the rhythm section...If a drummer got a funky beat on some things - like a half-shuffle or a shuffle or a backbeat that's even - I can write something.

~Miles Davis

If you have to ask, you'll never know.

~Miles Davis

Music is a funny thing when you really come to think about it.

~Miles Davis

There are no wrong notes.

~Miles Davis

You can't eat a winner's plaque.

~Miles Davis

We're not going to play the blues anymore. Let the white folks play the blues. They got 'em, so they can keep 'em.

~Miles Davis

I think every Negro over fifty should get a medal for putting up with all that crap.

~Miles Davis

Play what you know and then play above that

~Miles Davis

I'm not messing around with nobody's woman. If I want a woman I go get her - you know what I mean?

~Miles Davis

In Europe, they like everything you do. The mistakes and everything. That's a little bit too much.

~Miles Davis

I think the greatest sound in the world is the human voice.

~Miles Davis

So What or Kind of Blue were done in that era, the right hour, the right

day. It's over; it's on the record.

~Miles Davis

It's always been a gift with me, hearing music the way I do. I don't know where it comes from, it's just there and I don't question it.

~Miles Davis

With "We Are The World," I can't even eat when I watch that on television. If I'm eatin' some food, I have to put it down. I feel very strongly about that.

~Miles Davis

I said to [Lionel] Richie, "Man, my wife says you must really respect women because you write such beautiful love songs."

~Miles Davis

I'm out there doing the best that I can, My lip is cut and I'm still playing.

~Miles Davis

I gave the album [You're Under Arrest] to Quincy Jones and he loved "D Train". We couldn't call it "D Train"; it's called "MDI/Something's On Your Mind/MD2". That's on the album.

~Miles Davis

Keith, how does it feel to be a genius?

~Miles Davis

When you work with great musicians, they are always a part of you . . . their spirits are walking around in me, so they're still here and passing it on to others.

~Miles Davis

You can't play anything on a horn that Louis Armstrong hasn't played

~Miles Davis

Trane was the perfect saxophonist for Monk's music because of the space that Monk always used. Trane could fill up all that space with all them chords and sounds he was playing then.

~Miles Davis

Dave [Holland] plays the way he wants to play. And it's usually what's needed. You know, Dave is such a deep thinker. You can't tell him too much, else it might spoil his spirit, you know.

~Miles Davis

The music speaks for itself!

~Miles Davis

You can dominate a game if you dominate on the line... We're just going to have to go out there and work hard and blow people off the ball, and let our runners do what they do best.

~Miles Davis

That's the way women do. The frown. They want to give you the attitude to approach them back, by giving you a negative vibe.

~Miles Davis

It takes you years to learn how to play like yourself.

~Miles Davis

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