

# Mose Allison Quotes

*Years, Song, Writing, Ideas, Player, People, Night, Doe, Tunes, Jazz, Piano,  
Thinking, New York, World, Black, Swings, Men, Play, Oasis, Views*

I went through the whole number, you know. The swing era, the boogie woogie era, the bebop era. Thelonious Monk is still one of my favorites. So a lot of these people had their effect on me.

~Mose Allison

All the classic jazz players all sang and a lot of 'em sang blues.

~Mose Allison

Everybody cryin' mercy / When they don't know the meaning of the word.

~Mose Allison

The things that really matter don't mix with idle chatter.

~Mose Allison

Ever since the world ended, I don't go out as much

~Mose Allison

I have no idea what I'm doin'. I've never seen me.

~Mose Allison

I been getting good crowds. It only took 50 years.

~Mose Allison

I'm playin' music for a certain type of person. Fortunately, there are more and more of us. At least there are more comin' to see me than there were 30 years ago or so.

~Mose Allison

As far as I'm concerned, the essentials of jazz are: melodic improvisation, melodic invention, swing, and instrumental personality.

~Mose Allison

I do very few standards. Hardly any. Other people's tunes that I do are

usually obscure tunes, for the most part, although I do a couple of Duke Ellington tunes that are well known.

~Mose Allison

I'm always storing away phrases and ideas and things that I think might turn into songs.

~Mose Allison

My main influences have always been the classic jazz players who sang, like Louis Armstrong and Nat King Cole and Jack Teagarden.

~Mose Allison

So I'm in my 51st year of playin' mostly nightclubs. I do some concerts.

~Mose Allison

The thing of playin' and singin' never bothered me.

~Mose Allison

I never sit down and write. I just sorta let things form in my brain.

~Mose Allison

I haven't stopped and I don't plan on stoppin' any time soon.

~Mose Allison

I've heard some tunes in recent years that were pretty close to that same idea. The idea was you turn on the radio and you want to hear some music and up comes a commercial.

~Mose Allison

I just try to do as good job with the material as I can and play some jazz as well, some improvised music, and do that every night. Just see where it goes.

~Mose Allison

I do some concerts. At the moment, I'm being helped a lot by a gig I play in London, which is Pizza Express.

~Mose Allison

I'm happy whenever anybody does my material. I don't care what they do with it. I do what I want to with other people's songs.

~Mose Allison

And Lennie Tristano I like a lot, I still like him.

~Mose Allison

I never thought I was playing black music. I was just playing music, the stuff I liked. I sang blues at parties and things when I was a kid.

~Mose Allison

The idea was I'd never amount to anything in music, The theme there was that I was talented, but I wouldn't work hard enough to do anything with it.

~Mose Allison

The jazz boom was goin' on then so there was a lot happenin' in New York at that time.

~Mose Allison

I just have a lot off different influences.

~Mose Allison

I finally decided if I was going to make a living, I was gonna have to come to New York.

~Mose Allison

[The producer told me:] "We can try one more record, and we'll see how that one does." Those records never did anything. My music never got mentioned. My color got mentioned.

~Mose Allison

I was taking chemical engineering. But I went into the army after that. When I came out of the army, I was a different person. I met a lot of good jazz players in the army.

~Mose Allison

I never bothered about keeping track. Every now and then someone records one of my songs, and I get credit for it.

~Mose Allison

I don't care what anyone does, as long as they go through the copyright office.

~Mose Allison

A young man ain't nothin' in the world these days

~Mose Allison

I've been able to do pretty well. I don't work as many consecutive nights as I used to, but I'm still working over 100 nights a year, so that's good for me.

~Mose Allison

I didn't feel anything [frustrating]. I just kept working 110 or 120 nights a year.

~Mose Allison

I'm not inspired by songwriting at all; that took place years ago. I'm pretty well established, as far as my influences go. I don't listen to music anymore. It all sounds the same to me.

~Mose Allison

I told [my daughter Amy] at an early age that she had a good ear. But I didn't influence her music much. She's pretty much developed her style

on her own, and she's a talented songwriter.

~Mose Allison

I'm improvising all the time. Everything I do is improvised. On the piano, at least.

~Mose Allison

I'm playin' the music I like.

~Mose Allison

My dad was a self-taught stride piano player. The myth is - I don't whether it's true or not - that he taught himself to play by watching a player piano.

~Mose Allison

There's a few tunes of mine that don't have jokes, but most of them have a joke and they have a humorous point of view somewhere.

~Mose Allison

I sang and wrote songs when I was 12 years old.

~Mose Allison

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