

Nadia Boulanger

Quotes

*Music, Art, Done, Inspirational, Notes, Emotion, Heart, Profound, Order,
Women, May, Time, Should, Composer, Way, Writing, Obedience, Privilege,
Laughter, Creativity*

I've been a woman for a little over 50 years and have gotten over my initial astonishment. As for conducting an orchestra, that's a job where I don't think sex plays much part.

~Nadia Boulanger

To study music, we must learn the rules. To create music, we must break them.

~Nadia Boulanger

The essential conditions of everything you do must be choice, love, passion.

~Nadia Boulanger

Life is denied by lack of attention, whether it be to cleaning windows or trying to write a masterpiece.

~Nadia Boulanger

It is nothing to succeed if one has not taken great trouble, and it is nothing to fail if one has done the best one could.

~Nadia Boulanger

Loving a child doesn't mean giving in to all his whims; to love him is to bring out the best in him, to teach him to love what is difficult.

~Nadia Boulanger

The art of music is so deep and profound that to approach it very seriously only is not enough. One must approach music with a serious rigor and, at the same time, with a great, affectionate joy.

~Nadia Boulanger

Do nothing for effect. Do it for truth.

~Nadia Boulanger

Do not take up music unless you would rather die than not do so.

~Nadia Boulanger

Without discipline, there can be no freedom.

~Nadia Boulanger

Nothing is better than music; when it takes us out of time, it has done more for us than we have the right to hope for.

~Nadia Boulanger

False notes can be forgiven, false music cannot.

~Nadia Boulanger

It is one thing to be gifted and quite another thing to be worthy of one's own gift.

~Nadia Boulanger

There is nothing boring in life except ourselves.

~Nadia Boulanger

Music was not invented by the composer, but found.

~Nadia Boulanger

I adore tradition. I cannot stand habit. Simply to repeat is nothing, also to destroy is nothing. Tradition is never interrupted, we are always evolving but never interrupted.

~Nadia Boulanger

Without order there can be no inner satisfaction. Without inner satisfaction there can be no freedom. Without freedom there is no joy.

~Nadia Boulanger

As far as the execution is concerned ... the most frequent and most serious mistake is to follow the music instead of preceding it.

~Nadia Boulanger

Art is not emotion. Art is the medium in which emotion is expressed.

~Nadia Boulanger

The Constitution of the United States is not a mere lawyers' document; it is a vehicle of life, and its spirit is always the spirit of the age.

~Nadia Boulanger

Great art likes chains. The greatest artists have created art within bounds. Or else they have created their own chains.

~Nadia Boulanger

[On being asked how it felt to be the first female conductor of the Boston Symphony:] I've been a woman for a little more than fifty years, and I've gotten over my original astonishment.

~Nadia Boulanger

Everything we know by heart enriches us and helps us find ourselves. If it should get in the way of finding ourselves, it is because we have no personality.

~Nadia Boulanger

The history of harmony is the history of the development of the human ear, which has gradually assimilated, in their natural order, the successive intervals of the harmonic series.

~Nadia Boulanger

A great work is made out of a combination of obedience and liberty.

~Nadia Boulanger

Without a strong cup to carry the emotion, it is only a curiosity. Great art can come to us only in strong cups. Without emotion, there is nothing to carry.

~Nadia Boulanger

You should never listen to someone practice. That is their work and theirs alone.

~Nadia Boulanger

Never forget that your days are blessed. You may know how to profit by them, or you may not, but they are blessed.

~Nadia Boulanger

[On the music of Richard Strauss:] Too many notes!

~Nadia Boulanger

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