

# Nat King Cole

## Quotes

*People, Way, Music, Jazz, Helping, Maybe Tomorrow, Wonder, Artist, Heart,  
Feels, Travel, Bears, Chance, Fear, Real, Madison, Feelings, Years, Emotional,  
Ease*

I'm a musician at heart. I know I'm not really a singer. I couldn't compete with real singers. But I sing because the public buys it.

~Nat King Cole

If you smile through your fear and sorrow, smile and maybe tomorrow you'll see the sun come shining through for you.

~Nat King Cole

Music is emotional, and you may catch a musician in a very unemotional mood or you may not be in the same frame of mind as the musician. So a critic will often say a musician is slipping.

~Nat King Cole

People don't slip. Time catches up with them.

~Nat King Cole

Unforgettable in every way, and forever more, that's how you'll stay.

~Nat King Cole

I'm an interpreter of stories. When I perform it's like sitting down at my piano and telling fairy stories.

~Nat King Cole

The people who know nothing about music are the ones always talking about it.

~Nat King Cole

Smile and maybe tomorrow you'll see that life is still worth while if you just smile

~Nat King Cole

I may be helping to bring harmony between people through my music.

~Nat King Cole

I felt something impossible for me to explain in words. Then, when they took her away, it hit me. I got scared all over again and began to feel giddy. Then it came to me... I was a father.

~Nat King Cole

I am an American citizen and feel I am entitled to the same rights as any other citizen.

~Nat King Cole

The Supreme Court is having a hard time integrating schools. What chance do I have to integrate audiences?

~Nat King Cole

I'm not playing for other musicians. We're trying to reach the guy who works all day and wants to spend a buck at night. We'll keep him happy.

~Nat King Cole

I was a guinea pig for some hoodlums who thought they could hurt me and frighten me and keep other Negro entertainers from the South.

~Nat King Cole

It's not the people in the South who create racial problems - it's the people who are governing.

~Nat King Cole

I got the message. All of us get the message, sooner or later. If you get it before it's too late or before you're too old, you'll pull through all right.

~Nat King Cole

I ... started out to become a jazz pianist; in the meantime I started singing and I sang the way I felt and that's just the way it came out.

~Nat King Cole

I often wonder whether Negroes like myself who are pretty well known help out at all in breaking down barriers.

~Nat King Cole

Only time, education and plenty of good schooling will make anti-segregation work.

~Nat King Cole

Although it's been said many times, many ways...Merry Christmas to you!

~Nat King Cole

If you ever plan to motor west, travel my way, take the highway that is best. Get your kicks, on Route Sixty-six.

~Nat King Cole

I'm in the music business for one purpose - to make money.

~Nat King Cole

Critics don't buy records. They get 'em free.

~Nat King Cole

Madison Avenue is afraid of the dark.

~Nat King Cole

You've got to change with the public's taste.

~Nat King Cole

The whites come to applaud a Negro performer just like the colored do. When you've got the respect of white and colored, you can ease a lot of things.

~Nat King Cole

I am famous because I am an African American jazz artist.

~Nat King Cole

There's just one thing I can't figure out. My income tax!

~Nat King Cole

Get me well so I can get on television and tell people to stop smoking.

~Nat King Cole

The only sport I'm not interested in is horse racing. That's because I don't know the horses personally.

~Nat King Cole

The only prejudice I've found anywhere in TV is in some advertising agencies, and there isn't so much prejudice as just fear.

~Nat King Cole

I can't bear to see myself even in movies. The feeling is complex. I can't stand the sight of myself.

~Nat King Cole

I make no claim to being a business genius. You can make so much money in this business that it loses its value.

~Nat King Cole

I'm proud of our court. It knocks back a lot of the propaganda the Communists put out about the way America treats her Negroes.

~Nat King Cole

Primarily I'm a meat man, although once in a while I toy with a few vegetables.

~Nat King Cole

If I could read it, I could play it.

~Nat King Cole

I'm a businessman. I work for business people. The kind of thing they say is: Now we've sold a lot of records, let's sell some more.

~Nat King Cole

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