

# Nina Simone

## Quotes

*Music, People, Thinking, Song, Piano, Play, Black, Different, Writing, World,  
Way, Racism, Heart, America, Trying, Jazz, Believe, Feels, Voice, Years*

You've got to learn to leave the table When love's no longer being served".

~Nina Simone

I tell you what freedom is to me: no fear.

~Nina Simone

What kept me sane was knowing that things would change, and it was a question of keeping myself together until they did.

~Nina Simone

You can't help it. An artist's duty, as far as I'm concerned, is to reflect the times.

~Nina Simone

Life is short. People are not easy to know. They're not easy to know, so if you don't tell them how you feel, you're not going to get anywhere, I feel.

~Nina Simone

You have to learn to get up from the table when love is not being served.

~Nina Simone

Talent is a burden not a joy. I am not of this planet. I do not come from you. I am not like you.

~Nina Simone

My love is like the wind and wild is the wind. Give me more than one caress, satisfy my hungriness. Let the wind blow through your heart for wild is the wind.

~Nina Simone

How do you explain what it feels like to get on the stage and make

poetry that you know sinks into the hearts and souls of people who are unable to express it

~Nina Simone

There's no excuse for the young people not knowing who the heroes and heroines are or were.

~Nina Simone

Slavery has never been abolished from America's way of thinking.

~Nina Simone

This is the world you have made yourself, now you have to live in it.

~Nina Simone

The worst thing about that kind of prejudice... is that while you feel hurt and angry and all the rest of it, it feeds you self-doubt. You start thinking, perhaps I am not good enough.

~Nina Simone

Jazz is not just music, it's a way of life, it's a way of being, a way of thinking.

~Nina Simone

It's a new dawn, it's a new day...and I'm feeling good.

~Nina Simone

You don't have to live next to me / Just give me my equality.

~Nina Simone

I made wine from the lilac tree/Put my heart in its recipe/It makes me see what I want to see/And be what I want to be

~Nina Simone

I was always a politician from the day the civil rights people chose me

as their protest singer.

~Nina Simone

I feel what they feel. And people who listen to me know that, and it makes them feel like they're not alone.

~Nina Simone

To be young, gifted and black!

~Nina Simone

I'm a real rebel with a cause.

~Nina Simone

I'm just human, I have faults like anyone

~Nina Simone

I know I'm different, but I don't think about it.

~Nina Simone

We have ordered things so long in a certain way, we are numb. Nobody dares question it. This is what is wrong, symbolically, with America.

~Nina Simone

I feel more alive now than I ever have in my life. I have a chance to live, as I've dreamed.

~Nina Simone

It doesn't matter to me what is going on today because my music encompasses every kind of mood that exists in human beings. That's my stick.

~Nina Simone

It's logical that people from bad times will reflect their feelings in their communication. Music is part of the communication. If you lived it, you

can do it.

~Nina Simone

It's a good time for black people to be alive.

~Nina Simone

Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood," a song that was written for Simone, she confronted the band's lead singer, Eric Burdon. "So you're the honky," she said, "who stole my song and got a hit out of it?"

~Nina Simone

I had spent many years pursuing excellence, because that is what classical music is all about... Now it was dedicated to freedom, and that was far more important.

~Nina Simone

What is love but a prelude to sorrow...with heartache ahead for your goal.

~Nina Simone

It's time to take a look at my failures and stop calling them successes. Now I can start working at something that can use me best.

~Nina Simone

Everything that happened to me as a child involved music. It was part of everyday life, as automatic as breathing.

~Nina Simone

I believe in racial memory too. I'm sure I've got ancient African blood in me that has something to do with what I am.

~Nina Simone

Desegregation is a joke.

~Nina Simone

Once I understood Bach's music, I wanted to be a concert pianist. Bach made me dedicate my life to music, and it was that teacher who introduced me to his world.

~Nina Simone

Funk, gospel, blues is all out of slavery times, out of depression, out of sorrow.

~Nina Simone

How can you be an artist and not reflect the times?

~Nina Simone

I think the rich will eventually have to cave in too, because the economic situation around the world is not gonna tolerate the United States being on top forever.

~Nina Simone

Jazz is a white term to define black people. My music is black classical music.

~Nina Simone

I think the rich are too rich and the poor are too poor. I don't think the black people are going to rise at all; I think most of them are going to die.

~Nina Simone

Through music you can become sad, joyful, loving, you can learn. You can learn mathematics, touch, pacing... Oh my God! Ooh... Wow... You can see colors through music. Anything!

~Nina Simone

I'm sorry that I did not become the world's first black classic pianist. I think I would have been happier.

~Nina Simone

Every day has its emotional difficulties. I miss my mother whether I'm singing her music or not.

~Nina Simone

I demand perfection in what I do, and I practice very hard before I give a concert-sometimes three to six hours a day.

~Nina Simone

I am particular about the seating of the audience - also about how much money they pay - but most of all where they are seated. If I am going to sing something intimate, who am I going to sing it to?

~Nina Simone

My singing, if you want to call it that is merely another medium of expression. Just an instrument I play. That's how I see my voice.

~Nina Simone

To most white people, jazz means black and jazz means dirt, and that's not what I play. I play black classical music.

~Nina Simone

Greed has driven the world crazy. And I think I'm lucky that I have a place over here that I can call home.

~Nina Simone

The allusion was that I was actually naked. I loved that. It always, kind of shocked people enough that they became mine immediately.

~Nina Simone

I look forward to doing my own show, not someone else's. That's always been my dream.

~Nina Simone

Music has been a burden and a joy for as long as I can remember.

~Nina Simone

I don't like drug addicts and she sounds like a cat.

~Nina Simone

My job is not done. I address my songs now to the third world. I am popular all over Asia and Africa and the Middle East, not to speak of South Africa, where I'm trying to go to see Nelson Mandela.

~Nina Simone

I don't like rap music at all. I don't think it's music. It's just a beat and rapping.

~Nina Simone

It was always Marx, Lenin, and revolution - real girl's talk.

~Nina Simone

Tomorrow, I might be in a different mood and you wouldn't recognize my voice.

~Nina Simone

Music is a gift and a burden I've had since I can remember who I was.

~Nina Simone

I would like a man now who is rich, and who can give me a boat - a sailboat. I want to own it and let him pay for it. My first love is the sea and water, not music. Music is second.

~Nina Simone

I was not reluctant to become a singer. Singing has been an activity I've done my whole life, without thought.

~Nina Simone

I would like you to know, I am a doctor of music.



~Nina Simone

Since I was three I've been playing the piano. I've been onstage.

~Nina Simone

I don't like to go to strange places. I was in Italy for about five hours on my way to Africa.

~Nina Simone

From the beginning, it has been a no-no for a black man to touch a white woman.

~Nina Simone

I try to swim every damn day I can, and I've learned to scuba dive and snorkel.

~Nina Simone

Since I was three I've been playing the piano. I've been onstage. My mother is an Evangelist and I used to play the piano at her revival meetings.

~Nina Simone

I love the classics but there are many new ideas to be made into reality. I'd rather be concerned with my own thing. There are many masters of classical piano so I'll leave it to them.

~Nina Simone

I do love to sing Jacques Brel songs, intensely. I get terribly excited, just by reading a couple of lines in any one of his songs.

~Nina Simone

Many times I feel different like a different person.

~Nina Simone

My name sounds French but that's just a stage name.

~Nina Simone

Theory and harmony broadened my mind in music. I know what music is made of.

~Nina Simone

When a child is gifted, people try to help that child.

~Nina Simone

I think if I were over there in America, protest music would be more important. But I'm not going.

~Nina Simone

That's a very high goal to have, study eight hours a day to be a concert pianist.

~Nina Simone

I play piano, by ear. Yes, I write songs... and good ones.

~Nina Simone

I have a cultured manner of speaking.

~Nina Simone

When I choose material for an album all these songs I grew up with pour into my head.

~Nina Simone

I don't like to go to strange places.

~Nina Simone

Music is the center of my life.

~Nina Simone

If I get an idea I put it on tape and somebody else writes it out.

~Nina Simone

I had heard blues and jazz all my life but I was never aware that it was associated with nightclubs and drinking.

~Nina Simone

I'm a nut for Bach as a composer.

~Nina Simone

I can read and arrange, but I can't write.

~Nina Simone

I love to travel to hear different kinds of music.

~Nina Simone

I can't stand loud guitars that make me deaf.

~Nina Simone

By the time I was eight I was taking classical piano lessons and I wanted to be a concert pianist. But that didn't work out. I graduated from high school and my formal education ended.

~Nina Simone

If I want to take a particular form of blues somewhere else I have the equipment to do it but I never even thought of it.

~Nina Simone

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