

Ornette Coleman

Quotes

*Thinking, Music, Mean, Play, Writing, Jazz, Records, Mother, Company, Book,
Two, Sound, Want, School, Expression, People, Musician, Trying, Suffering,
Hard Times*

It was when I found out I could make mistakes that I knew I was on to something.

~Ornette Coleman

Jazz is the only music in which the same note can be played night after night but differently each time.

~Ornette Coleman

When I have them working together, it's like a beautiful kaleidoscope.

~Ornette Coleman

For me, being an innovator doesn't mean being more intelligent, more rich, it's not a word, it's an action.

~Ornette Coleman

The idea is more important than the style you're playing in.

~Ornette Coleman

You don't have to worry about being a number one, number two, or number three. Numbers don't have anything to do with placement. Numbers only have something to do with repetition.

~Ornette Coleman

I don't try to please when I play. I try to cure.

~Ornette Coleman

Music has many uses and I think the most perfected use that music has is one of a healing quality.

~Ornette Coleman

Whatever you do, it's over when you do it - but first you have to do it.

~Ornette Coleman

We in the Western world suffer from too many categories and classes;

we've forgotten that we all still have diapers on. We've separated music from life.

~Ornette Coleman

It's just someone has labelled us as having a different label to do what you do. I find that labels are the worst thing in the world for artistic expression.

~Ornette Coleman

I had a really good time in New Orleans, although I had some very tragic times in Baton Rouge. Some guys beat me up and threw my horn away. 'Cause I had a beard, then, and long hair like the Beatles.

~Ornette Coleman

You've got to realize. In the western world, regardless of what color you are, what title the music is, it's all played by the same notes.

~Ornette Coleman

The only thing my mother would say to me about my music - I'd say, "Mom, listen to this," and she'd say, "Junior, I know who you are."

~Ornette Coleman

I think that those elements - light and sound - are beyond democratic. They're into the creative part of life.

~Ornette Coleman

I wasn't so interested in being paid. I wanted to be heard. That's why I'm broke.

~Ornette Coleman

All the things that human beings suffer from are how their environment treats them, and how the elements of their planet affects their mind and body--like radiation, cancer, and all.

~Ornette Coleman

I mean, if you decided to go out today and get you an instrument and do whatever it is that you do, no one can tell you how you're going to do it but when you do it.

~Ornette Coleman

To me, human existence exists on a multiple level, not just on a two-dimensional level, not just having to be identified with what you do and what you say.

~Ornette Coleman

I don't really live like a musician myself. I think music is just something that I do, but I'd like to be doing lots of other things. I like to cure all kinds of illness.

~Ornette Coleman

Jerry Garcia was one of the original American icons. He played naturally and beautifully.

~Ornette Coleman

Musicians tell me, if what I'm doing is right, they should never have gone to school.

~Ornette Coleman

Only America makes you feel that everybody wants to be like you. That's what success is: Everybody wants to be like you.

~Ornette Coleman

That's why I haven't been so anxious. But now, lots of people write and say, 'I want to find out what you're doing.' So I know that this book will enlighten them.

~Ornette Coleman

If you decide you want to be treated good, and you treat someone else good, or you want to learn something, it's information. It's getting the

right, good information.

~Ornette Coleman

Originally, I wanted to be a composer. I always tell people, 'I think of myself as a composer.

~Ornette Coleman

I decided, if I'm going to be poor and black and all, the least thing I'm going to do is to try and find out who I am. I created everything about me.

~Ornette Coleman

I would like to play for audiences who are not using my music to stimulate their sex organs.

~Ornette Coleman

Sound has no parents.

~Ornette Coleman

The human being receives the pleasure from music, not from the argument over what it is.

~Ornette Coleman

I'm interested in music, not in my image. If someone plays something fantastic, that I could never have thought of, it makes me happy to know it exists.

~Ornette Coleman

Harmelody allows everybody to be an individual who does not have to imitate anybody else.

~Ornette Coleman

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