

# Philip Glass

## Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, People, Mean, Use, Real, Play, Character, Interesting, Piano,  
Different, Technique, Years, Trying, Style, Differences, Listening, World, Way,  
Language*

I don't know what I'm doing and it's the not knowing that makes it interesting.

~Philip Glass

You practice and you get better. It's very simple.

~Philip Glass

A new language requires a new technique. If what you're saying doesn't require a new language, then what you're saying probably isn't new.

~Philip Glass

You get up early in the morning and you work all day. That's the only secret.

~Philip Glass

The work I've done is the work I know, and the work I do is the work I don't know. I don't know what I'm doing.

~Philip Glass

What I've noticed is that people who love what they do, regardless of what that might be, tend to live longer.

~Philip Glass

What you hear depends on how you focus your ear. We're not talking about inventing a new language, but rather inventing new perceptions of existing languages.

~Philip Glass

I travel the world, and I'm happy to say that America is still the great melting pot - maybe a chunky stew rather than a melting pot at this point, but you know what I mean.

~Philip Glass

I've been called a minimalist composer for more than 30 years, and

while I've never really agreed with the description, I've gotten used to it.

~Philip Glass

What came to me as a revelation was the use of rhythm in developing an overall structure in music.

~Philip Glass

If you don't have a basis on which to make the choice, then you don't have a style at all. You have a series of accidents.

~Philip Glass

If you remember your lineage, you will never feel lonely.

~Philip Glass

I'm interested in what happens to music when other people use it. Whereas there are composers who don't like anyone to touch their music, I think people should because they do things I can't think of.

~Philip Glass

It doesn't need to be imagined, it needs to be written down.

~Philip Glass

There's almost no content in terms of language at all. I don't like using language to convey meaning. I'd rather use images and music.

~Philip Glass

My biggest problem about writing is whenever I write piano pieces, because I then have to learn to play them, which is sometimes not so easy.

~Philip Glass

In order to arrive at a personal style, you have to have a technique to begin with.

~Philip Glass

I always knew what I wanted to do and I did it.

~Philip Glass

The hardest thing about traveling is that mostly you get to a point - and it always happens on every tour - where you can choose between eating and sleeping, but you can't do both.

~Philip Glass

I, as a young guy getting out of music school, I didn't like the prospect of spending my life writing music for about 200 people.

~Philip Glass

I'd say the differences are more interesting than the similarities at this point. Certainly no one would ever mistake my music for Steve's [Reich].

~Philip Glass

I'd say it's just part of the world that we live in; it's part of the music world.

~Philip Glass

I don't think I'm capable of making radical changes, but over a period of four or five years you can perceive very big changes, and they seem rather small at the time.

~Philip Glass

I like the idea that [Mahatma] Gandhi is appearing now in an opera hall in all these different places, and people kind of think about it again.

~Philip Glass

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