

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Quotes

Musical, Art, Music, Men, Writing, Mean, Sound, Opera, Expression, Soul, Should, Talking, Long, Attitude, Unsaid, Country, Left, Composer, New York, Dog

The art of music above all the other arts is the expression of the soul of a nation.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

Music is the reaching out towards the utmost realities by means of ordered sound.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

I have always found it difficult to study. I have learnt almost entirely what I have learnt by trying it out on the dog.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

But in the next world I shan't be doing music, with all the striving and disappointments. I shall be being it.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

The duty of the words is to say just as much as the music has left unsaid and no more.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

There is no reason why an atheist could not write a good Mass.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

I suppose it never occurs to these people that a man might just want to write a piece of music.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

Wagner used to read the libretti of his operas to his friends; I am glad I was not there.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

To the unmusical hearer a note on the gong means dinner, this perhaps often is menacing enough.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

It looks wrong, and it sounds wrong, but it's right.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

The great men of music close periods; they do not inaugurate them. The pioneer work, the finding of new paths, is left to smaller men.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

The audience is requested not to refrain from talking during the overture. Otherwise they will know all the tunes before the opera begins.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

Beethoven was ahead of the times, Bach behind them.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

Have we not all about us forms of a musical expression which we can take and purify and raise to the level of great art?.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

A supreme composer can only come out of a musical nation.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

Why should we not enter into our inheritance in the church as well as the concert hall?

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

Two years of close association with some of the best (as well as some of the worst) tunes in the world was a better musical education than any amount of sonatas and fugues.

~Ralph Vaughan Williams

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