

Robert Wyatt

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Song, Country, World, Mean, Music, Want, Writing, Drinking,
Musician, Trying, Records, War, Revolution, Culture, Singing, Work, Whole,
Hero*

Being big and famous doesn't get you more freedom, it gets you less.

~Robert Wyatt

I think that pop, and to some extent rock, are like sport and fashion industry in that they're about the exuberance of youth. That's the sort of subliminal ideology.

~Robert Wyatt

I've always liked pop music. There was a bit of a misunderstanding with the avant-garde rock scene, because I think I was sort of swimming the wrong way, really.

~Robert Wyatt

When I lost the use of my hi-hat and bass drum legs, I became basically a singer. I was a drummer who did a bit of singing, and then I became a singer who did a bit of percussion.

~Robert Wyatt

I find it hard to take rock groups very seriously or treat them with respect. There is something absurd about these gloomy young men getting together and banging away.

~Robert Wyatt

I don't know how many thoughts we have a second, but it's quite an amazing number, and just to pin down the appropriate sequence of those, all you really need is a pencil and a piece of paper.

~Robert Wyatt

I prefer the mystic clouds of nostalgia to the real thing, to be honest.

~Robert Wyatt

There's no field of music which doesn't have good ideas.

~Robert Wyatt

What keeps me going is a constant sense of disappointment with what I've already done.

~Robert Wyatt

In theory, I'd like to work in a group. But the group I'd like to work in, all the musicians in them are long since dead.

~Robert Wyatt

I would like to think that the singer is the butterfly, and the drummer was just the little grub in the ground, working to become a caterpillar

~Robert Wyatt

I only choose musicians who I think will emerge, can emerge, with their own character, while still going along with the tune in question.

~Robert Wyatt

When there is a voice in a piece of music, we tend to focus on the voice. That is probably something from when we were babies and we depended on hearing our mother's voice.

~Robert Wyatt

I'm not full of malice, but I do dislike Neil Diamond a lot, and I'm sorry that I've done a Neil Diamond song.

~Robert Wyatt

I know people who grow old and bitter. I want to keep making a fresh start. I don't want them to defeat me. That would be suicidal.

~Robert Wyatt

It was physically difficult, adjusting to wheelchair life, but I remember a great relief and happiness that I was finally getting somewhere, finding musicians to work with that were sympathetic.

~Robert Wyatt

I consider myself a sit-down comedian really, as much as anything else. I love comedy. Life is a cosmic joke.

~Robert Wyatt

Love is blind. My politics has been, too. I think you can fall in love with ideas, and you can fall in love with people. It's a very subjective experience. And I'm loyal to that experience.

~Robert Wyatt

It just doesn't mean anything to me, the high-profile, big money side of things. I just want enough to live on, and to be able to get on with what I do, and hang around my friends.

~Robert Wyatt

The things that I draw on, and the world that I feel part of, aren't particularly youth culture.

~Robert Wyatt

This constant pressure from record companies to come up with a hit single or something like that, I find completely tiresome.

~Robert Wyatt

We did not get any money from the early records. It was all taken by crooked managers. It is just a gangster's paradise.

~Robert Wyatt

Those nations of artists, finding their own individualism, and kind of standing against the world: to me that's the ultimate nightmare. I want to get lost and diffused in the world.

~Robert Wyatt

I don't find the business easy. The moment you start talking about the business, you start sounding like someone in Spinal Tap.

~Robert Wyatt

There are singers that I have enjoyed, from Nina Simone and Ray Charles onward. But the music that made music the number one thing for me as a youth was jazz.

~Robert Wyatt

I'm just a very primitive, infantile folk singer.

~Robert Wyatt

I was a latecomer to politics. Maybe I'm just very slow. I got to everything when everyone else had left.

~Robert Wyatt

Anybody who thinks pop music's easy should try to make a pop single and find out that it isn't.

~Robert Wyatt

I don't want to be a professional cripple. And I don't see the suicide stuff as tragic.

~Robert Wyatt

Im not, by nature, a collaborator. My biggest influences were people like painters and poets. These are solitary workers.

~Robert Wyatt

People are quite shocked when you remind them that Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra never wrote a song that they recorded in their lives, as far as I know.

~Robert Wyatt

I don't do live things.

~Robert Wyatt

I have never felt in tune with the whole rock industry.

~Robert Wyatt

On the whole, I tend not to listen to my peers.

~Robert Wyatt

Drinking was a big help with me making music, because drinking gives you courage. But it also makes you reckless, and that's the trouble.

~Robert Wyatt

People who had empires, unfortunately, want them back eventually, somehow, someday.

~Robert Wyatt

Potentially, America is really the greatest, but it's not yet, I don't think. It's too much like an old-fashioned empire, waving the stick and dropping too many bombs on too many people.

~Robert Wyatt

The most effective instruments do have a vocal quality.

~Robert Wyatt

I think the people who did well, or are happy, in a youth industry, they define themselves out of the business after a decade or so.

~Robert Wyatt

Even if you're specific about the character of the song, it's more exciting to place them, juxtapose them in such a way as to make an adventure out of the sequence of the songs.

~Robert Wyatt

In the past, so many of my records, really, have been sketches for records that never really got made.

~Robert Wyatt

I play music a lot but on my own mostly, so it was nice to be around other people. There was a certain sense a relief in the physical act of

just playing and being with other musicians.

~Robert Wyatt

When I'm singing I try not be a singer with a capital S. I just try to get it out so I feel comfortable with it.

~Robert Wyatt

My heroes are people like Picasso and Miro and people who at last really reach something in their old age, which they absolutely couldn't ever have done in their youth.

~Robert Wyatt

People say, oh it's a shame, you're not nostalgic about the '60s. Well actually, it's quite good, when you think of it. Wouldn't it be sad if I was sitting here wishing it back?

~Robert Wyatt

The missing links in my life's work, no less!

~Robert Wyatt

I find writing songs hard, because it does not come naturally to me. I never set out to be a songwriter or a singer.

~Robert Wyatt

The United States is a country where everybody can start again.

~Robert Wyatt

What hurts people a lot is taking humiliation.

~Robert Wyatt

What I like about popular culture is its accessibility, and I've covered popular songs because they are amazing things.

~Robert Wyatt

I can't imagine my life without the extraordinary bebop jazz revolution in New York in late '40s and '50s.

~Robert Wyatt

I'm not a soldier for anything, either. I'm only a singer and I don't think it makes a difference what we sing.

~Robert Wyatt

I do think there are deep structural things that are wrong in the world.

~Robert Wyatt

The cultural mix that's happened in the United States is wonderful! Funny enough, one of the most wonderful things about it is that there is no American race.

~Robert Wyatt

Because I'm associated with an avant-garde sensibility, people think I'm looking down on popular culture, but I don't want to be part of a new elitism.

~Robert Wyatt

People have habits about what they think songs should be like. There's the folksy thing of: "Poor me, I'm a sensitive person in a cruel world." Or the pop thing of: "Hey, look at me, I'm sexy."

~Robert Wyatt

I looked at what adults were doing and how they wanted to earn money, and I really didn't want to do that. I wanted to go away.

~Robert Wyatt

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