

Serj Tankian

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Song, Artist, Writing, Political, Civilization, Rocks, World,
Records, Powerful, Musician, Giving, Want, Reality, Mean, Fans, Heart, Fun,
Expression*

Sometimes it's better to have a benign dictator than a dumb democracy, to be honest.

~Serj Tankian

We first fought... in the name of religion, then Communism, and now in the name of drugs and terrorism. Our excuses for global domination always change.

~Serj Tankian

I think music has the ability to inspire people and to change hearts, and the heart has the power to change the mind, and the mind has the power to change the world.

~Serj Tankian

The living ideas of the dead are more powerful and effective than the dead ideas of the living.

~Serj Tankian

Life is that perfect fine line between ironies.

~Serj Tankian

Pretending that we live doesn't make us alive.

~Serj Tankian

Civilization is a failure. We need to think what we can do together in love and peace.

~Serj Tankian

Science fails to recognize the single most potent element of human existence...faith.

~Serj Tankian

Awareness in our society has flipped all types of injustice on its head.

~Serj Tankian

We have the power to change our lives, and the world around us.

~Serj Tankian

The most important thing about music that I've learned after all this time is that to me, it's a way of reaching the truth.

~Serj Tankian

Anti-depressants Controlling tools of your system Making life more tolerable Making life more tolerable

~Serj Tankian

Sometimes a good love song can change the world and create positive energy more than any political song can.

~Serj Tankian

I'm not comfortable with just entertaining. Although I like entertaining, I also like bringing forward the truth of our times as minstrels used to in the old days.

~Serj Tankian

I think every artist should follow their vision, their hearts is what they need to reveal, not something that society is looking out for.

~Serj Tankian

I'd rather let the music speak for itself.

~Serj Tankian

To deny a genocide because of convenience and expediency having to do with an illegal war or occupation in Iraq to me, is double hypocritical.

~Serj Tankian

When I was younger, I was listening to a lot of Armenian music, you know, revolutionary music about freedom and protest. In the 70s I was

listening to soul and the Bee Gees and ABBA, and funk.

~Serj Tankian

I've worked with some great orchestras and amazing classical musicians, but I don't like the conceptualization of classical music as an elitist form of art.

~Serj Tankian

We [americans] self-regulate ourselves, we self-censor ourselves a lot in this country instead of having someone else censor us so we can blame them. That's not good, either.

~Serj Tankian

Touring and putting out records is fun and cool, but I've been doing it for a long time.

~Serj Tankian

I've got my own studio, and I've got four- to five-hundred unreleased tracks. I've got stuff that's electronic, orchestral, jazz, I've got rock, I've got metal, you know, I don't have polka.

~Serj Tankian

Day is just a collection of hours.

~Serj Tankian

You can say a lot more with a poem than you can with a song, but with a song you can really be more powerful with it. You can express it a lot more powerfully.

~Serj Tankian

What does civilization mean to you, and what would its ending bring to the world?

~Serj Tankian

People always ask me 'do you think there should be more bands doing political music?' and I say 'absolutely not.'

~Serj Tankian

People think our music's very aggressive or angry or whatever, and it's just the opposite, really... I like laughing. And I like being really calm before a show, and smiley.

~Serj Tankian

It's important for all people, and not just people in bands, to speak out on social justice issues. That means journalists or plumbers have just as much of a responsibility to do that as artists.

~Serj Tankian

It's probably a combination of personal and non-personal matters that have led us to where we are musically.

~Serj Tankian

As an artist, you never want to write the same song again, you always want to challenge yourself to writing in a different way.

~Serj Tankian

The percentage of Americans in the prison system, has doubled since 1985.

~Serj Tankian

I think that the memory of Armenia's genocide opened my eyes at an early age to the existence of political cynicism.

~Serj Tankian

I don't want to spend all my time working as an activist. I don't get satisfaction out of it. I'd rather be doing something else. I'm a musician.

~Serj Tankian

I think nobody wants to hear a sermon. Well, some people do, but maybe not through music or not with me. No one wants to hear me give a speech that way.

~Serj Tankian

Political statements are usually more direct, and it works with the upbeat music as well, for some reason, the directness of your statements.

~Serj Tankian

I hate injustice, and I can't help but speak against it. But I don't want to get involved in politics.

~Serj Tankian

With 'Elect the Dead,' I learned how to make a rock record without a rock band and make the rock record I've always wanted to make.

~Serj Tankian

If you're using live bass versus orchestral bass, you've got to make sure that you're not stepping on the toes of the other elements, so you've got to balance it out.

~Serj Tankian

As long as people are living their truth or their vision, whether they're activists or not, that's the important thing.

~Serj Tankian

I think anytime that you go to the extreme of any mode of economics, be it capitalism or communism, you have these feedback mechanisms that make the system turn in on itself.

~Serj Tankian

Science has failed our mother Earth.

~Serj Tankian

People get so attached to a position which they identify themselves with that they just spurt it out, but they can't really give you a viable reason why they feel that way.

~Serj Tankian

I like African music, and I'm a huge Ravi Shankar fan.

~Serj Tankian

Corporatization is the descendant of industrialization.

~Serj Tankian

Spirit moves through all things.

~Serj Tankian

'Elect the Dead' is a rock record that takes you on a journey with different types of genres integrated, different lyrical themes digested, and many fun and colorful moments to enjoy.

~Serj Tankian

I've always tried to listen to a lot of different music from around the world.

~Serj Tankian

I'm a huge Beatles fan, but I've only really gotten into them as an adult.

~Serj Tankian

Capitalism unchecked is not a democratic system.

~Serj Tankian

I think I might write a book. I like writing. People have asked me if I would get into politics, but I think I feel a lot more effective being a representative of truth through the arts.

~Serj Tankian

A lot of pop music is based on trying to make people remember it so that they'll buy it. To me, it was not about that.

~Serj Tankian

Harout Pamboukjian is one of the biggest Armenian folk singers in the world. In the '70s, he was making these records that were really Zeppelin-influenced.

~Serj Tankian

I have a more direct avenue to expression as an artist than I ever would as a politician.

~Serj Tankian

In the last few years I've been listening to jazz more than anything else. I listen to a lot of world music and experimental here and there.

~Serj Tankian

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