

# Stan Getz

## Quotes

*Music, Jazz, Play, Sound, Thinking, Years, Art, Perfection, Appreciate, Records,  
Voice, Two, People, Saxophone, Kids, Use, Giving, Facts, Wall, Beautiful*

You don't rehearse jazz to death to get the camera angles.

~Stan Getz

If you like an instrument that sings, play the saxophone. At its best it's like the human voice.

~Stan Getz

A good quartet is like a good conversation among friends interacting to each other's ideas.

~Stan Getz

You can read all the textbooks and listen to all the records, but you have to play with musicians that are better than you.

~Stan Getz

The saxophone is an imperfect instrument, especially the tenor and soprano, as far as intonation goes. The challenge is to sing on an imperfect instrument that is outside of your body.

~Stan Getz

Other than conversation, no other art form can give the satisfaction of spontaneous interaction like Jazz.

~Stan Getz

There are four qualities essential to a great jazzman. they are taste, courage, individuality, and irreverence.

~Stan Getz

The value of jazz still has to be clarified. People involve themselves with its superficialities without digging for its soul.

~Stan Getz

I cannot play a lie. I have to believe in what I play or it won't come out.

~Stan Getz

I practiced saxophone eight hours a day for the first two years I played.

~Stan Getz

You know, when I'm playing, I think of myself in front of the Wailing Wall with a saxophone in my hands, and I'm davening, I'm really telling it to the Wall.

~Stan Getz

Life is too full of distractions nowadays. When I was a kid we had a little Emerson radio and that was it. We were more dedicated. We didn't have a choice.

~Stan Getz

Records used to be documents, but now record companies want product.

~Stan Getz

I came from an era when we didn't use electronic instruments. The bass wasn't even amplified. The sound was the sound you got.

~Stan Getz

The saxophone is actually a translation of the human voice, in my conception. All you can do is play melody. No matter how complicated it gets, it's still a melody.

~Stan Getz

I never consciously tried to conceive of what my sound should be.

~Stan Getz

I played in rhumba bands, mickey mouse bands; all kinds of bands.

~Stan Getz

I learn something new every day.

~Stan Getz

I compulsively reach for perfection in music, often at the expense of everything else in my life.

~Stan Getz

I've always regretted the fact that I've never formally studied and learned the mechanics of writing music.

~Stan Getz

I appreciate men like Ben Webster and Coleman Hawkins very much.

~Stan Getz

I've done some dastardly things but what can I do except make amends and apologize?

~Stan Getz

I learn something new every day - to edit, to take out all the extraneous matter and stress form, logic, and content. I try to play beautiful music.

~Stan Getz

We recorded to document ourselves, not to sell a lot of records.

~Stan Getz

Hearing myself so much all the time, I don't think I sound that special all the time because it's me.

~Stan Getz

My dark sound could be heard across a room clearer than somebody with a reedy sound. It had more projection. My sound always seemed to fill a room.

~Stan Getz

I never have any trouble playing anything I can think of. The trouble is in thinking of what to play.

~Stan Getz

I had a 10-year heroin habit and kicked that. Then I became an alcoholic. I drank two fifth's a day.

~Stan Getz

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