

# Stephen Malkmus

## Quotes

*Song, People, Thinking, Mean, Writing, Nice, Kids, Voice, Sound, Different, Records, World, Rocks, Musician, Goal, Singing, Play, Band, Important, Moving*

We're probably a couple of freaks who've created their own little universe, are living in our own little world and that's the only place where we can survive.

~Stephen Malkmus

Lou Reed is something like a personal favorite of mine, but you could always put me into that drawer of singers who can't really sing, who speak their songs.

~Stephen Malkmus

If a voice is just too nice, without an edge, it kinda all flows by. You forget it. You don't listen to the lyrics.

~Stephen Malkmus

A good voice isn't so important. It's more important to sound really unique.

~Stephen Malkmus

I'm not sure if you can blame everything on the American way of life, but the United States are big. So, if you have a lot of people there, the percentage of stupid people is bound to be higher.

~Stephen Malkmus

I think most musicians know if they make the same record twice, even if they say they don't.

~Stephen Malkmus

Despite my own doubts of being marketable or crushworthy, my goal was to write a record of peppy pop songs, hopefully without annoying anybody.

~Stephen Malkmus

We're not on a desperate mission to write chart compatible stuff.

~Stephen Malkmus

The lyrics are different from Nick Cave songs and lyrics. His songs are very narrative.

~Stephen Malkmus

We always did our own mixing.

~Stephen Malkmus

I didn't really like confessional poetry or things. They seemed sort of dated to me, or just corny.

~Stephen Malkmus

I never decided to start singing, to be a singer.

~Stephen Malkmus

Something taken off the page can sound great, I guess. Usually it doesn't. It seems like lately Pitchfork is trying to champion lyric writers more.

~Stephen Malkmus

I guess the majority of people who want to ban certain musicians are the ones who are so proud of everything America stands for.

~Stephen Malkmus

I still hate [the Eagles]â€™. There's levels of evil in it to me.

~Stephen Malkmus

Almost every band has somebody who's the main songwriter and who has a vision, a very clear idea of how a song should be.

~Stephen Malkmus

There's no point that an album should sound like a watered down version of another album.

~Stephen Malkmus

But, then again, I wouldn't call myself an indie-rock supporter even if there are some really good bands out there and there will always be some real good new bands.

~Stephen Malkmus

I like that band Get Hustle. They're cool live. I haven't heard their records, though.

~Stephen Malkmus

I don't want to be in Mötley Crüe or something.

~Stephen Malkmus

Berlin is just an affordable European city that's supposed to be cool. There's nothing too deep about it.

~Stephen Malkmus

There's no reason to stop. Who knows what's around the bend? To participate, meet new people. It's mostly other musicians and people like you, or anybody I meet who's in this, that keeps me going.

~Stephen Malkmus

If there can be some paradigm shift thing that you can be part of, that's cool.

~Stephen Malkmus

Đzur music, it's an acquired taste. It's almost cult, even at our level. It can mean nothing to somebody and it can mean everything to somebody else.

~Stephen Malkmus

When I see four young kids in a band, I think, That looks really fun, no matter how shitty they are. You develop your own thing, and get excited about your band name. It's all so harmless.

~Stephen Malkmus

If you'd rather learn how to ride a horse or something, I would say do that. That'll keep you out of trouble. You would think a band would get you in trouble, but I think it's the opposite.

~Stephen Malkmus

I did some writing. I was just taking the kids to school. I did a couple things and we did some tours. It was a lot of downtime.

~Stephen Malkmus

I've lost my writing skills since college. I couldn't write a book. It would take a long time.

~Stephen Malkmus

Besides, going on tour and playing songs and arranging things, going to practice, it's all I know to be productive.

~Stephen Malkmus

There's something in life that's cool, it's relatively cheap, and fun, and populist. Even when it's elitist.

~Stephen Malkmus

Most people want to be seen or heard. You want to shine. That's my way of shining.

~Stephen Malkmus

I think it's just entertainment for people that are interested in the form. To sing along to and be psyched by.

~Stephen Malkmus

It's easy to be negatively funny about personalities in the media. It's just kind of a cheap laugh.

~Stephen Malkmus

You know, the songs that are self-conscious or jerky, they are that way,

but the other ones aren't, so that's a good thing. Some of the songs are Beck-jokey, but the others, they have heart in them.

~Stephen Malkmus

Obviously songs and musicians mean a lot to people.

~Stephen Malkmus

I've wanted to not play as much. I would like to just sing now. Even though I don't think I'm a great singer, I wouldn't mind just - not being a frontman, per se, but singing and not playing.

~Stephen Malkmus

The word "down," is very musical. It just always comes.

~Stephen Malkmus

Basically, no one else gives me any opinions on lyrics. I don't ask for them. If they did, I would listen.

~Stephen Malkmus

I just imagine that every song in and of itself is great, but when you add them all up, it's too much of me maybe.

~Stephen Malkmus

So much of rock lyrics is just a mirror of real feeling. It doesn't feel dangerous to me. They just feel like "rock lyrics."

~Stephen Malkmus

Lyrics are back, maybe. It seems like there was a bit of an attitude that lyrics are not important.

~Stephen Malkmus

I'm thinking, I'm singing like Ozzy Osbourne, but I don't sound like him enough, ever.

~Stephen Malkmus

With some songs, I have written narratives or I've tried to carry it through, but generally the things that were more genius, as far as I was concerned, were not that.

~Stephen Malkmus

It's normally in the morning, just playing around. And I'm not saying everything I make is great, but that's what I do. I can't even remember how I wrote stuff.

~Stephen Malkmus

The best I do, if I'm just playing around and riffing in a fantasy world, and then I'll write something down. Hopefully I write it down.

~Stephen Malkmus

I don't really know where the songs are coming from often. Many of the best things I made up were just off the top of my head.

~Stephen Malkmus

Men are men and women are women, but the men are dumber than the women, usually.

~Stephen Malkmus

That's why you go to a nice studio. You can get a magic take. You don't really have to do anything to it.

~Stephen Malkmus

But we're still rehearsing and planning to make a new album next year. We have some really good new songs that we've already been playing on that last tour that we just finished.

~Stephen Malkmus

You don't realize that when you're young, and you're surprised there's a lot of people at your gig - you just think it's general British-press hype.

~Stephen Malkmus

We [ Pavement] were definitely unafraid of playing wrong notes and singing wrong things. We could be fearlessly bad!

~Stephen Malkmus

I like visual imagery in my head.

~Stephen Malkmus

Usually [the lyrics] go from one word to the next word - there's no finish line. The music was that way, too.

~Stephen Malkmus

Don't go to the same studio twice, or work with the same engineer twice.

~Stephen Malkmus

Family is the best. I can honestly say, it's a gift that is beyond making art. I didn't know that when I got into it.

~Stephen Malkmus

When a band means a lot to you, you build the fantasy more than the reality. Always.

~Stephen Malkmus

Some people, they've had a lot of fun, even if it was dumb fun and a shitty body of work.

~Stephen Malkmus

George Oppen wasn't a larger than life personality, but I'm not either. And he lived a long time, so he was happy. Going down in flames is fine, too.

~Stephen Malkmus

I thought The Doors were the greatest band for a while.

~Stephen Malkmus



When I was a kid I really liked the guitarist of The Doors [Robby Krieger]. He plays blues, but he plays a lot of melodic things. He plays scales that are kind of unusual, and some bent notes.

~Stephen Malkmus

I'm not dying for things to say.

~Stephen Malkmus

I'm just kind of a hippie. Age is not that relevant to the music.

~Stephen Malkmus

I've been getting plenty off my chest. Sometimes I get too much off my chest and I regret it.

~Stephen Malkmus

I'm not a go-to-the-gym type guy. I've tried before. And I'm not a jogger.

~Stephen Malkmus

I really do think everybody can sing.

~Stephen Malkmus

I do play soccer, but it's exhausting in a way.

~Stephen Malkmus

I don't even think my voice is really good.

~Stephen Malkmus

Well, yeah, I sang to some songs on the radio or in the shower.

~Stephen Malkmus

I'm more into describing a scenario and I move around in that scenario.

~Stephen Malkmus

I'm better when I'm an autodidact and things just come. Or you're just blessed. I'm not bragging or anything, it just comes to you.

~Stephen Malkmus

What producers did was mostly recording in the studio, so it never changed our sound just that much.

~Stephen Malkmus

I don't know if you look back on your life and just see successes, but probably the first things that pop up are the regrets.

~Stephen Malkmus

If you have no shame, and it's your goal to get people into bed, how much higher could your success rate possibly be?

~Stephen Malkmus

You can change the world, but if no one's listening, it doesn't matter.

~Stephen Malkmus

I'm not dying for everyone to hear everything we do. Forty minutes every two years is sensible.

~Stephen Malkmus

There's always a chance, a goal to make something different and get it right, finally.

~Stephen Malkmus

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