

# Stephin Merritt

## Quotes

*Song, Thinking, Writing, People, Trying, Serious, Love You, Smart, Not Sure,  
Rhyme, Mother, Music Is, Hardcore, Long, World, Melancholy, Important, Mean,  
Kind, Lone*

Serious music isn't listened to in a casual setting. You don't want to listen to that in headphones on the subway.

~Stephin Merritt

I gave up music criticism because of the increasingly obvious conflict of interest. I couldn't say anything bad about the records when I might be meeting that person's manager backstage an hour later.

~Stephin Merritt

At first I was laboring under the impression that Chinese lyrics didn't rhyme. That turned out to be untrue - they don't rhyme in translation.

~Stephin Merritt

I can imagine lyrics becoming better written by smart machines rather than stupid musicians. Songwriters generally have nothing to say. They may as well be replaced by machines.

~Stephin Merritt

My mother says I have boring percussion.

~Stephin Merritt

When you're making a singular pop song, you don't really need any subject matter. You just sort of say, "Uh, I love you." And then you try to figure out some rhyme for that, and there never is one.

~Stephin Merritt

I'm not too sure if I have a very smart approach to revealing my life. Luckily, I doubt if many people really care about my life that much.

~Stephin Merritt

There are so many clichés in the world, especially in music, that it's a never-ending creative font to just bring two of them together and let them interact.

~Stephin Merritt

Okay, a truly great song is a song that makes its own aesthetic intentions clear and then lives up to them and exceeds them in an interesting way. Alright?

~Stephin Merritt

Surf is that music which is entirely about evoking something. There's never any vocals, so it's not about the lyrics, it's about the reverb.

~Stephin Merritt

There's already a great deal to do writing the songs. And if I were completely in control of it, nobody would be able to say "this song doesn't work."

~Stephin Merritt

Never try to do anything artistic when you're feeling something overwhelming. It's like driving a car: If you're experiencing road rage, pull over.

~Stephin Merritt

If you start out with a song sounding like Britney Spears, and you end up with a song sounding like Pauline Oliveros, you'd better have pretty good liner notes explaining what on earth you mean.

~Stephin Merritt

Well, there are certainly original things to say. But I'm not sure that a pop song is the appropriate format to say them in.

~Stephin Merritt

I think there is such a valid concept as "serious music," meaning that if you don't take it seriously, you don't get it all.

~Stephin Merritt

There's a whole kind of melancholy that you can only attain with reverb. That's an example of a technology introducing a whole new meaning.

~Stephin Merritt

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