

# Thomas Beecham

## Quotes

*Music, Musical, Sound, Funny, Men, Brass Bands, Enough, Boys, Soon  
Enough, Stars, Memories, Tunes, World, Two, Women, Depressing, Loud,  
Immortality, Tobacco, Player*

The function of music is to release us from the tyranny of conscious thought.

~Thomas Beecham

They are quite hopeless - drooling, driveling, doleful, depressing, dropsical drips.

~Thomas Beecham

Composers should write tunes that chauffeurs and errand boys can whistle.

~Thomas Beecham

The trouble with women in an orchestra is that if they're attractive it will upset my players and if they're not it will upset me.

~Thomas Beecham

"Have you heard any Stockhausen?" Beecham was asked. "No, but I believe I have stepped in some."

~Thomas Beecham

Madam, you have between your legs an instrument capable of giving pleasure to thousands and all you can do is scratch it.

~Thomas Beecham

Great music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and leaves the memory with difficulty. Magical music never leaves the memory.

~Thomas Beecham

The sound of a harpsichord - two skeletons copulating on a tin roof in a thunderstorm.

~Thomas Beecham

There are two golden rules for an orchestra: start together and finish together. The public doesn't give a damn what goes on in between.

~Thomas Beecham

It is quite untrue that British people don't appreciate music. They may not understand it but they absolutely love the noise it makes.

~Thomas Beecham

Her singing reminds me of a cart coming downhill with the brake on.

~Thomas Beecham

I find brass bands have a melancholy sound. All right out of doors, of course - fifty miles away. Like bagpipes, they turn what had been a dream into a public nuisance.

~Thomas Beecham

Beethoven's last quartets were written by a deaf man and should only be listened to by a deaf man.

~Thomas Beecham

What can you do with it? It's like a lot of yaks jumping about.

~Thomas Beecham

At a rehearsal I let the orchestra play as they like. At the concert I make them play as I like.

~Thomas Beecham

If an opera cannot be played by an organ grinder, it's not going to achieve immortality.

~Thomas Beecham

The sound of the harpsichord resembles that of a bird-cage played with toasting-forks.

~Thomas Beecham

A musicologist is a man who can read music but cannot hear it.

~Thomas Beecham

The English may not like music, but they absolutely love the noise it makes.

~Thomas Beecham

There are no woman composers, never have been and possibly never will be.

~Thomas Beecham

We cannot expect you to be with us all the time, but perhaps you could be good enough to keep in touch now and again.

~Thomas Beecham

Composers and musicians have always starved and, as this is a sentimental country, we think the tradition should be continued.

~Thomas Beecham

Elgar's first symphony is the musical equivalent of St Pancras Railway Station.

~Thomas Beecham

The bagpipes sound exactly the same when you have finished as when you started

~Thomas Beecham

All the arts in America are a gigantic racket run by unscrupulous men for unhealthy women.

~Thomas Beecham

Music first and last should sound well, should allure and enchant the ear. Never mind the inner significance.

~Thomas Beecham

Brass bands are all very well in their place - outdoors and several miles away.

~Thomas Beecham

Too much counterpoint; what is worse, Protestant counterpoint.

~Thomas Beecham

The British like any kind of music so long as it is loud.

~Thomas Beecham

In the first movement alone, I took note of six pregnancies and at least four miscarriages.

~Thomas Beecham

I have just been all round the world and have formed a very poor opinion of it.

~Thomas Beecham

Movie music is noise. It's even more painful than my sciatica.

~Thomas Beecham

I prefer Offenbach to Bach often.

~Thomas Beecham

Without question the most unpopular medium of musical sound in the world.

~Thomas Beecham

When asked whether he minded if someone smoked in a non-smoking compartment. Certainly not if you don't object if I'm sick.

~Thomas Beecham

If she is attractive, I can't perform with her; if she is not, then I won't.

~Thomas Beecham

Magical music never leaves the memory.

~Thomas Beecham

No operatic star has yet died soon enough for me.

~Thomas Beecham

The grand tune is the only thing in music that the great public really understands.

~Thomas Beecham

As you'll never hear the thing again, my boy, why not throw in a couple of brass bands?

~Thomas Beecham

No woman is worth the loss of a night's sleep.

~Thomas Beecham

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