

Tommy Bolin

Quotes

*Play, Writing, Guitar, Band, Believe, Purple, Song, Style, Different, School,
Thinking, Records, My Own, Trying, Doctors, Opportunity, I Can, Matter,
Working Together, Two*

I'll hear something in my head, then eventually play it. But it's a subconscious thing. Most of the time I really don't know what I'm playing.

~Tommy Bolin

My first joint I smoked onstage in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I smoked my first joint live.

~Tommy Bolin

When I'm with Purple, I'm totally with Purple; when I'm doing my thing, I'm totally doing my own thing.

~Tommy Bolin

I have my own style, but it's different for each kind of music. There are certain little characteristic things every player has.

~Tommy Bolin

I can't do anything but play guitar.

~Tommy Bolin

You're in direct contact with the music by having the strings under your fingers. It's not mechanical like a piano.

~Tommy Bolin

All the different styles I've played have really helped me as a guitarist and helped me develop my own way of playing.

~Tommy Bolin

If you're not having fun it's not worth doing.

~Tommy Bolin

I came in with a completely new perspective. I would write songs and they would pick tunes they felt were in the Purple vein.

~Tommy Bolin

I don't like English bands. They're too structured.

~Tommy Bolin

When you come from the Midwest, you have a more open mind than if you come from the West Coast or the East Coast.

~Tommy Bolin

I think the way I play the guitar is very percussive. I play a lot of rhythm chops as though I were playing congas or something.

~Tommy Bolin

I used to try and take things in leaps and bounds. Now I've realized it's got to be step by step.

~Tommy Bolin

Once I was playing and moving around and I fell right on my back. Just straight on my back. It was the most embarrassing moment of my life.

~Tommy Bolin

I want the new band to work together for a while, and when we're ready we'll invite every major record company to see us.

~Tommy Bolin

I learned a lot about lead; you don't have to blow your cookies in the first bar. It is much harder to be simple than to be complicated during solos.

~Tommy Bolin

Lots of times it really doesn't matter what notes you play, but what notes come before and after a run.

~Tommy Bolin

When I got to LA and was with the James Gang, I got the opportunity to write a lot, to play in front of large audiences, make some money.

~Tommy Bolin

The best money I made was panhandling.

~Tommy Bolin

I can't see. I used to wear glasses off stage. Now I'm thinking of getting a pair of contact lenses.

~Tommy Bolin

I just started off on my own by learning the regular chords then the barre chords. Then I'd lean the notes that would go with them.

~Tommy Bolin

I used to listen a lot to Rolling Stones records and play along with them when I was first starting. It's a good way to learn, jamming around basic music.

~Tommy Bolin

I'd rather work than not.

~Tommy Bolin

A lot of things just got distorted, like stories about each other. After the tour we never talked. I believe a band should be a band.

~Tommy Bolin

For me, practice isn't doing scales but doing things like writing, jamming with other people, or playing gigs.

~Tommy Bolin

How do you stop somebody from growing?

~Tommy Bolin

I started on drums when I was 13 and played them for two years. Then I went to guitar for a year, played keyboards for a year and a half, and

went back to guitar.

~Tommy Bolin

A lot of times I wish I would have learned to read music, but I'm very impatient.

~Tommy Bolin

Blues teaches you to develop coherent solos, because the form you're playing over is so basic. You have to develop leads that go someplace.

~Tommy Bolin

My family were all musicians. I really wasn't interested in school or anything.

~Tommy Bolin

When I first colored my hair, my mother loved it. I got kicked out of school when I was 15, just for my hair.

~Tommy Bolin

Right now I feel so inspired, it's hard to believe. I've written about 20 songs in the last two days. I'd gone about four months without writing a thing.

~Tommy Bolin

I'll play drums a lot at home, and it will help my wrist action.

~Tommy Bolin

I blew my voice out and the doctor said, don't even talk for a week.

~Tommy Bolin

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