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Selected Quotes from "Thinking About Music and Teaching"

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and cannot remain silent"
Victor Hugo, 1802-1885

"Music and rhythm find their way into the secret places of the soul"
Plato, 428 BC-348 BC

"If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music."
Gustav Mahler, 1860-1911

"Writing about music is like dancing about architecture."
Laurie Anderson, b. 1947

"As music is the poetry of sound, so is painting the poetry of sight and the subject-matter has nothing to do with harmony of sound or of color."
James McNeill Whistler, 1834 –1903

"The art of music is so deep and profound that to approach it very seriously only is not enough. One must approach it with very serious rigor and, at the same time, with great, affectionate joy."
Nadia Boulanger, 1887-1979

"I've never known a musician who regretted being one. Whatever deceptions life may have in store for you, music itself is not going to let you down."
Virgil Thomson, 1896-1989

"I worry that the person who thought up Muzak may be thinking up something else."
Lily Tomlin, b. 1939

"Hell is full of musical amateurs."
George Bernard Shaw, 1856-1950

"To study music, we must learn the rules. To create music, we must break them."
Nadia Boulanger, 1887-1979

"Music is love in search of a word."
Sidney Lanier, 1842-1881

"Music rots when it gets too far from the dance."
Ezra Pound, 1865-1952

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."
Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

"Bach opens a vista to the universe. After experiencing him, people feel there is meaning to life after all."
Helmut Walcha, 1907-1991

"Music is a performance and needs the audience."
Michael Tippett, 1905-1998

"It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument will play itself."
J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

"The most fun happens in music when you're not doing it, when the music plays itself. Why is this night different than all other nights? Why is music different from anything else in life? When we let things flow, joy happens."

Eddie Daniels, b. 1941

"Painting is easy when you don't know how, but very difficult when you do."
Edgar Degas, 1834-1917

"I am a dancer. I believe that we learn by practice. Whether it means to learn to dance by practicing dancing or to learn to live by practicing living.... In each it is the performance of a dedicated precise set of acts, physical or intellectual, from which comes shape of achievement, a sense of one's being, a satisfaction of spirit."

Martha Graham, c.1953

"If you sound great in the practice room, you're practicing the wrong thing."
Miles Davis, 1926-1991

"A man paints with his brains and not with his hands."
Michelangelo, 1475-1564

"He is the true enchanter, whose spell operates, not upon the senses, but upon the imagination and the heart "
Washington Irving, 1783 -1859

"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free. "
Michelangelo, 1475-1564