

The sound of silence

Words and music by
Paul Simon

♩ = 56

SOPRANO *p* Hel-lo dark-ness my old friend,

ALTO *p* Hel-lo dark-ness my old friend,

BARITONE/ALTO (optional) *p* Hel-lo,— old

PIANO *p legato*

4

I've come to talk with you a - gain, be-cause a vi-sion soft-ly—

I've come to talk with you a - gain, be-cause a vi-sion soft-ly—

friend, I've come to talk with

7

poco cresc. — creep-ing,— left its seeds while I was— sleep-ing,—

poco cresc. — creep-ing,— left its seeds while I was— sleep-ing,—

poco cresc. you a - gain, talk with you a -gain.—

poco cresc.

10

and the vi - sion that was plant-ed in my brain

and the vi - sion that was plant-ed in my brain

The vi - sion in my brain

13

still re-mains with-in the sound

still re-mains with-in the sound of si-lence.

still re - mains, the sound

Ped.

17

SOLO (or a few voices)

mp

(1.) In rest-less dreams I walked a - lone through nar-row streets of cob - bled
(2.) saw ten thou-sand peo - ple, may-be

(1.) a - lone,
(2.) I saw

(1.) a - lone,
(2.) I saw

20 *cresc.*

stone. more. 'Neath the ha-lo of a street lamp,
 Peo-ple talk-ing with-out speak-ing,

of stone, much more, 00

of stone, much more, 00

23 **FULL *mf***

I turned my col-lar to the cold and damp, when my eyes were stabbed,
 peo-ple hear-ing with-out list-'ning. Peo-ple writ-ing songs

00 *f* when my eyes were stabbed
 Peo-ple writ-ing songs

00 *f* when my eyes were stabbed
 Peo-ple writ-ing songs

26 *f*

the flash of a light that split the
 that voi-ces ne-ver share, and no-one

by the flash of a ne-on light that split the night
 that voi-ces ne-ver share, and no-one dare

by the flash of a ne-on light
 that voi-ces ne-ver share,

sfz

29 SOLO SOLO (or a few voices) 1. *mp*

night, and touched the sound—
dare dis-turb the sound—

2. And in the na-ked light I

pp

of si-lence.

p *pp*

Ped. _____

33 2. *f*

"Fools!" said I, "You do not know si-lence like a can-cer

f

"Fools! You do not know—

f

"Fools! You do not know— si-lence like a can-cer

2. *f*

36 *mp*

grows. Hear my words that I may teach you.

mp

si-lence like a can-cer grows. I'll teach you.

mp

grows. I'll teach you.

mp

39

f Take my arms that I may reach . . . you!"— *mp* But my words—

f I'll reach you!"— *mp* But my words—

f I'll reach you!"—

mf *f* *mp*

42

— like si-lent rain-drops fell— and

— like si-lent rain-drops fell, they fell

they fell

p *p* *p*

p

Ped. _____

SOLO

47

FULL *molto* *mf*

. e-choed in the wells And the peo-ple bowed and

molto *pp* *mf*

in the wells of si-lence. And the peo-ple bowed and

mf

And the peo - ple

pp *pp* *mf*

51

prayed to the ne-on god they made.

prayed to the ne-on god they made.

prayed to the god they made.

54

cresc. And the sign flashed out its warn-ing in the words that it was

cresc. And the sign flashed out its warn-ing in the words that it was

cresc. And the sign flashed its warn - ing in the words it was

57

form-ing. And the signs said, "The words of the pro-phets are

form-ing. And the signs said, "The words of the pro-phets are

form - ing. And the signs said, "The words of the pro-phets are

60

writ-ten on the sub-way walls, and te-ne-ment halls, and

writ-ten on the sub-way walls, and te-ne-ment halls,

writ-ten on the sub-way walls, and te-ne-ment halls,

mp *p* *mp* *mp*

Ped.

63

whis-pered in the sound of si-lence,

whis-pered of si-lence,

whis-pered in the sound si-lence.

p *p* *pp* *pp* *a tempo* *pp*

rit. *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

66

si-lence.

si-lence.

si-lence.

p *pp* *rit.* *a tempo*

Ped. *laissez vibrer*