

# The sound of silence

Words and music by  
Paul Simon

$\text{♩} = 56$

SOPRANO

ALTO

BARITONE/ALTO  
(optional)

PIANO

*p*

Hel-lo dark-ness my old friend,

*p*

Hel-lo dark-ness my old friend,

*p*

Hel-lo, — old

$\text{♩} = 56$

*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

*p* *pp* *p* *pp*

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

*p* *p*

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

when my eyes were stabbed  
Peo - ple writ - ing songs

when my eyes were stabbed  
Peo - ple writ - ing songs

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.

1.

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

33

2. *f*

"Fools!" said I, "You do not know

si-lence like a can-cer

"Fools! You do not know

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

2. *f*

36

*mp*

grows.

Hear my words that I may teach you...

si-lence like a can-cer grows.

*mp*

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 —

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*

SOLO

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

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

*cresc.*

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

*f*

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,

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

63

whis-pered in the sound of si-lence,

whis-pered of si-lence,

whis-pered in the sound si-lence.

rit. a tempo

rit. a tempo

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

66

si-lence.

si-lence.

si-lence.

rit. a tempo

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

*laissez vibrer*