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Speaking of Love

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Paul Salerni

Speaking of Love

Song cycle on poems by Dana Gioia

for soprano, viola, pianoforte, and percussion

- I. Speaking of Love*
- II. Orchestra*
- III. The Song*

for Earl Kim on the occasion of his 75th birthday

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Speaking of Love

Adagio

1

Soprano: Speak - ing of love was diff - i - cult at first. We

Viola: *pp* *p* *pp*

Marimba: *pp* *p* *pp*

3

Sop. (spoken): groped for those lost, un - tar - nished words That pa - rents ne - ver tra - ded cas - ua - lly at

Viola: *mf* *p*

Mar.:

5

Sop.: home The ra - di - o had not de val - ued. How lit - tle there seemed left to us.

Viola:

Mar.:

poco rit.

A tempo

7

Sop. (sung): So, speak - ing of love, we

Viola: *pp* *pp*

Mar.: *mp* *pp*

10

Sop. (spoken): chose The harsh and le - vel lang - uage of de - ni - al Know - ing

Viola: *mf* *p*

Mar.:

12

Sop.: on - ly what we did not wish to say, Choos - ing si - lence

Viola: *mp* *p*

Mar.:

13

Sop. in our ter - ror of a lie. For sure - ly love ex - is - ted be - fore words.

Vla.

Mar.

14 poco recitativo (senza tempo)

Sop. But si - lence can be - come its own cli - che, And bo - dies lie as skill - ful - ly as words.

Vla. *p* *pp*

Mar.

16 In tempo (sung) (spoken) (sung) (spoken) 6 (sung)

Sop. *pp* So, one by one we spoke the ea - sy lines the o - ther had re - sis - ted *esp.* but de - sired.

Vla. *pp*

Mar.

20

Sop. Trust - ing that love re - newed their in - no - cence. Was it

Vla.

Mar.

22

Sop. then that words be - came un - stuck? That star no long - er seemed e - nough for

Vla.

Mar.

24

Sop. *mp* star? Our borr - - owed speech de - mand - - ed love so

Vla. *mp*

Mar. *mp*

26
Sop. pure 3 0 0 1 0 0 2 0 3 0 0 0 and so be - yond our power that we
Vla. *mf*

26
Mar. *mf*

28
Sop. saw How words were on - - ly forms of our re - -
Vla. *mf*

28
Mar. *mf*

29
Sop. *f*
Vla. *f*

29
Mar. *f*

31
Sop. *f* poco rit. (spoken)
Vla. *p* And so *pp* at last
Mar. *p*

A tempo
33 (sung)
Sop. we speak *p* *pp* a - gain of love, Now that there is no - thing
Vla. *pp* *p* *pp*
Mar. *pp*

35 (spoken)
Sop. left un - said. *mf* Surr - end - er - ing our voi - ces to the past,
Vla. *mf* *p*
Mar. *mf*

36

Sop. *Which has be - trayed us. Each of us a - lone, Ob -*

Vla.

Mar.

37

Sop. *sessed by mem - o - ry, be - friend - ed by de - sire, with*

Vla.

Mar.

pp

39 *(sung)* **(senza tempo)** *(spoken)* **In tempo** *(sung)*

Sop. *no words left to sum - mon back our love.*

Vla.

Mar.

41 **poco rit.**

Sop.

Vla.

Mar.

Orchestra

Andante sostenuto **senza tempo, rubato** **A tempo**

1 $\text{♩} = 115$ **poco rit.**

Soprano
Climb-ing the scales three oct-aves at a time, I search for you a-mong the high notes where the

Viola
pizz. *p* *arco* *flautando* *pp* *p* *pizz.* *pp*

Pianoforte
p *pp* *p* *pp*

*

poco rit. **senza tempo, rubato**

5

Soprano
ten - der flute re - sides.

Viola
arco *flautando* *pp*

Pianoforte

W

A tempo **poco rit.**

8

Soprano
But where are your sweet eye - lash - es? Not there.

Viola
mp *mf* *pp*

Pianoforte
mp *mf* *pp*

*

senza tempo, rubato **A tempo**

11

Soprano
Then I de - scend a -

Viola
flautando *pp* *p*

Pianoforte
p

con pedale

senza tempo, rubato

14

Soprano
mong the sun - lit brass - es - their fun - nels glist - ten - ing like fount - ain - tips.
mf

Viola
mf

Bass
mf *pp*

17

Soprano
mp I let them splash me with their stream ing
cresc. 3

Viola
mp *cresc.* 3

Bass
mp *cresc.*

*

20

Soprano
gold, but I can't find their lips. Then dar ing e - ver deep - er I ex - plore the
mf *f* *p* *cresc. e accel. poco a poco*

Viola
mf *f* *p* *cresc. e accel. poco a poco*

Bass
mf *f* *p* *cresc. e accel. poco a poco*

24

Soprano

Viola

depths the el - e - men - tal strings com - mand. Their bows will not cre -

27

Soprano

Viola

ate a mir - a - cle with - out your stro - - king

29

Soprano

Viola

Animato $\text{♩} = 145$

hand. The orch - es - tra is still. *f* *ff*

32

Soprano

Viola

The Song

Lento

1 $\text{♩} = 45$

Soprano *p* How shall I hold my soul that it does not touch yours?

Viola *p* *simile*

Vibes *p* *ped.*

6

Soprano How shall I lift it o - ver you to o - ther things?

Viola

Vibes

11

Soprano If it would on ly sink be - low in - to the dark like some lost thing or

Viola *f* *decresc.*

Vibes *f* *decresc.*

16 **ritardando**

Soprano slum - ber in some qui - et place that did not e - cho your soft heart's beat.

Viola *pp*

Vibes *pp* *

20 **A tempo** *dolce*

Soprano
But all that e____ ver touched us - you and me touched us to - ge____ ther like____ a

Viola

Vibes
Red.

24 **poco più mosso**

Soprano
bow that from two strings could draw one voice. On what in - stru - ment were we

Viola

Vibes

p

29 **ritardando**

Soprano
strung? And to what play - er did we sing our in - ter - rup - ted song?

Viola

Vibes

pp

34 **A tempo**

Soprano

Viola
espressivo e dolce

Vibes
Red.

dim. a niente