

Paul Salerni

*Speaking of Love*

*Song cycle on poems by Dana Gioia*

for mezzo and guitar

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

Original version for soprano, viola, mallet percussion, and pianoforte dedicated to Earl Kim on the occasion of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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Dana Gioia

# Speaking of Love

Paul Salerni

1 *Adagio* *pp* *p*

Mezzo soprano

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

Acoustic Guitar

*Adagio* *pp* *p* *pp*

3 *mf* *(spoken)* *p*

groped for those lost, un - tar-nished words That pa-rents ne-ver tra-ded cas-ual-ly at

*mf* *p*

5

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

7 *poco rit.* *A tempo* *pp* *(sung)* *p* *pp*

So, speak - ing of love, we

*poco rit.* *A tempo* *pp*

10 *mf* (spoken)

chose The harsh and le - vel lang - uage of de - ni - al Know - ing

*mf* *p*

12 *mp* *p*

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

13

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

14 *poco recitativo* *p*

*poco recitativo* But si - lence can be - come its own cli - che,

15 *pp*

And bo - dies lie as skill - ful - ly as words.

16 *In tempo* *pp* (sung) (spoken) (sung)

*In tempo* So, one by one we

*pp*

18 *(spoken)* 6 *(sung)*

s - p - o - k - e    t - h - e   e - a - s - y   l - i - n - e - s    t - h - e   o - t - h - e - r   h - a - d   r - e - s - i - s - t - e - d    *esp.*    b - u - t   d - e - s - i - r - e - d .

20

T - r - u - s - t   -   i - n - g   t - h - a - t   l - o - v - e   r - e - n - e - w - e - d   t - h - e - i - r   i - n - n - o - c - e - n - c - e .   W - a - s   i - t

22

t - h - e - n   t - h - a - t   w - o - r - d - s   b - e - c - a - m - e   u - n - s - t - u - c - k - e - d ?   T - h - a - t   s - t - a - r   n - o   l - o - n - g - e - r   s - e - e - m - e - d   e - n - o - u - g - h   f - o - r

24 *mp*

s - t - a - r ?   O - u - r   b - o - r - r - o - w - e - d   s - p - e - e - c - h   d - e - m - a - n - d - e - d   l - o - v - e   s - o

*mp*

26 *mf*

p - u - r - e   a - n - d   s - o   b - e - y - o - n - d   o - u - r   p - o - w - e - r   t - h - a - t   w - e

*mf*

28 *f*

saw How words were on - ly forms of our re - gret.

*f*

30 *poco rit.* *p* (*spoken*)

And so at last

*poco rit.* *p*

*A tempo*

33 *pp* (*sung*) *p* *pp*

we speak a - gain of love, Now that there is no - thing

*A tempo*

35 *mf* (*spoken*)

left un - said. Surr - end - er - ing our voi - ces to the past,

*mf* *p*

36

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

37

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

*pp*

39

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

no words left to sum - mon back our love.

**(senza tempo)** **In tempo**

41

**poco rit.**

**poco rit.**

Mezzo-soprano

1 *p*  $\text{♩} = 115$  *poco rit.* *senza tempo, rubato*

Climb - ing the scales three oct - aves at a time,

Acoustic Guitar

*p*  $\text{♩} = 115$  *poco rit.* *senza tempo, rubato*

3 *A tempo* *mp* *pp*

I search for you a - mong the high notes where the

*A tempo* *mp* *pp*

5 *poco rit.* *senza tempo, rubato*

ten - der flute re - sides.

*poco rit.* *senza tempo, rubato* *pp*

8 *A tempo* *mp* *mf* *poco rit.* *pp*

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

*A tempo* *mf* *poco rit.* *pp*



2 senza tempo, rubato

A tempo

11

Then I de - scend a -

*pp* *p*

14

mong the sun - lit brass - - es - - - their

*mf* *pp*

16

fun - nels glist - ten - ing like fount - ain - tips. I let them

*mp* A tempo

18

splash - me with their - stream - ing

*cresc.*

subito meno mosso

20 *mf* *f*

gold, but I can't find their lips. Then dar\_\_\_\_\_

subito meno mosso

*f*

A tempo

22 *p cresc. e accel. poco a poco*

ing e - ver deep - er\_\_\_\_\_ I ex - plore the

A tempo

*p cresc. e accel. poco a poco*

24

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

27

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

**Animato**

29 *f* *ff*

hand. The orch - es - tra is still.

*f* *ff*

**Animato** 3

32

34

The score \_\_\_\_\_ is blank.

*decresc. poco a poco*

37

**meno mosso** **poco rit.** . . . . .

*p*

A tempo

41 *pp* *senza vibrato* *p normale* *mf* poco rit. *pp*

Cold as a slide rule the brass-es, strings, and flute.

A tempo

*pp* *senza vibrato* *p normale* *mf* poco rit. *pp*

rubato ed espressivo

A tempo

poco rit.

45 *mp* 3 *p* *pp*

So - no - rous lo - ver, when will you re - turn? The orch - es - tra is mute.

rubato ed espressivo

A tempo

poco rit.

*mp* *p* *pp* \*

# The Song

**Lento**  
♩ = 45 *p*

1

Mezzo-soprano

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

**Lento**  
♩ = 45 *p*

Acoustic Guitar

6

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

11 *f*

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

*f* *decresc.*

16

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

*ritardando* *pp* *ritardando* *pp*

**A tempo**  
 20 *p dolce*

But all that e\_\_\_\_ver touched us - you and me touched us to - ge\_\_\_\_ther like\_\_\_\_ a

**A tempo**

24 *p* *poco più mosso*

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

*p* *poco più mosso*

29 *ritardando* *pp*

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

*ritardando* *pp*

**A tempo**  
 34 *esp.*

**A tempo**