

for my good friend James Bagwell and the  
Cincinnati May Festival Youth Chorus

# In Silence

Thomas Merton  
(publ. 1957)

With a gently insistent momentum

Kyle Gann  
2015

$\text{♩} = 104$

Soprano: Be still. Lis-ten to the stones of the  
Alto: Be still. Lis-ten to the stones of the  
Tenor: Be still. Lis-ten to the stones of the  
Bass: Be still. Lis-ten to the stones of the  
Piano: *p* and so on

8

wall. Be si - lent, they try to speak your name. Lis-ten to the liv-ing walls.  
wall. Be si - lent, they try to speak your name. Lis-ten to the liv-ing walls.  
wall.  
wall. Be si - lent,

15

— Who are you? Who are you?— Whose si-lence are

— Who are you?— Whose si-lence are

Who are you? Who are you?— Whose si-lence are

Who are you?— Whose si-lence are

22

you? Who are you? Do not think of what you

you? (be qui-et) (as these stones are qui-et) Do not think of what you

you? (be qui-et) (as these stones are qui-et) Do not think of what you

you? (be qui-et) (as these stones are qui-et) Do not think of what you

*In Silence*

28

are... Still less of what you may one day be. Rath-er be what you  
 are... Still less of what you may one day be. Rath-er  
 are... Still less of what you may one day be. Rath-er  
 are... Still less of what you may one day be. Rath-er  
 are... Still less of what you may one day be. Rath-er  
 are... Still less of what you may one day be. Rath-er

34

are... Be the un - think - ab-le one you do not know.  
 (but who?) Be the un - think - ab-le one you do not know.  
 (but who?) Be the un - think - ab-le one you do not know. Oh be  
 (but who?) Be the un - think - ab-le one you do not know. Oh be still...

*In Silence*

41

Oh be still while you are still a-live, and all things live a - round you

Oh be still while you are still a-live, and all things live a - round you

still while you are still a-live, and all things live a - round you

while you are still a-live, and all things live a - round you

*f*

47

(I do not hear) to your own be-ing, speak-ing by the un - known that is in

speak-ing to your own be-ing, speak-ing by the un - known that is in

speak-ing to your own be-ing, speak-ing by the un - known that is in

speak-ing to your own be-ing, speak-ing by the un - known in

*subito mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

53

you and in them selves. I will try like them to be my own si-lence:  
 you and in them-selves, I will try like them to be my own si-lence:  
 you and in them-selves, I will try like them to be my own si-lence:  
 you and in them-selves, I will try like them to be my own si-lence:

60

and this is dif-fi-cult. The whole world is sec-ret-ly on fire. The stones burn, e-ven the  
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In Silence

67

stones, they burn me. How can a man be still and listen to all things

stones, they burn me. How can a man be still and listen to all things

stones, they burn me. How can a man be still and listen to all things

stones, they burn me. How can a man be still and listen to all things

*p* 5

73

burn-ing? How can he dare to sit with them when all their silence is on fire?"

burn-ing? How can he dare to sit with them when all their silence is on fire?"

burn-ing? How can he dare to sit with them when all their Their silence is on

How can he dare to sit with them when all their silence is on fire?"

78

*f* "I will try like them to be my own si-lence:  
*f* "I will try like them to be my own si-lence:  
*p* fire? *f* "I will try like them to be my own si-lence:  
*f* "I will try like them to be my own si-lence:

84

*mf* and this is dif-fi-cult. *f* The whole world is sec-ret-ly on fire. *mf* Lis-ten to the  
*mf* and this is dif-fi-cult. *f* The whole world is sec-ret-ly on fire. *mf* Lis-ten to the  
*mf* and this is dif-fi-cult. *f* The whole world is sec-ret-ly on fire. *mf* Lis-ten to the  
*mf* And this is dif-fi-cult. *f* The whole world is sec-ret-ly on fire. *mf* Lis-ten to the  
and this is dif-fi-cult. The whole world is sec-ret-ly on fire. Lis-ten to the