

The Silence: Seven Lorca Poems

These pieces are settings of several poems from Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca's *Poem of the Deep Song*. The first one, *The Silence*, sets up a beautiful image which envelopes the set as a whole: listening to the silence – “silence” represented here by a resonant, very soft sustained A major chord. I imagine the rest of the pieces as images of fleeting events taking place within, and surrounded by, this resonant silence. There are numerous phrases which relate back to this idea throughout the rest of the poems – “The labyrinths that time creates disappear. Only the desert remains...Nothing remains but silence...Up in the yellow tower the bell is ceasing;” a fleeting image of dancing girls; and instruments – a bell, a guitar that “makes dreams cry,” a castanet that “drowns in [its] own wooden warble.” The poems have a fleeting quality which led to these brief and compact, but sharply defined settings. They condense the essence of the poems to seek the sounds and colors and emotions contained in the eternal Silence.