

III - The Question

David Ralston

$\bullet = 50$ *p*

Soprano

To ask the hard ques-tion is sim-ple: as-king at meet-ing

Piano

p

5

S

with the sim-ple glance of ac-quain-tance to what these go and how these do; to

Pno.

5

10

S

ask the hard ques-tion is sim-ple, the sim-ple act of con-fu-sed will.

Pno.

10

15 *mp*

S

But the an-swer is hard and hard to re-mem-ber: on steps or on shore the

15

Pno. *mp*

19

S

ears list-'ning to words at meet-ing, the eyes look-ing at the hands hel-ping,

19

Pno.

23 *p*

S

are ne-ver sure of what they learn from how these things are done,

23

Pno. *p*

28 *mf*

S

and for - get - ting to lis - ten or see makes for - get - ting ea - sy, On - ly re -

Pno. *mf*

33

S

mem - ber - ing the meth - od of re - mem - ber - ing, re - mem - ber - ing on - ly in a - no - ther

Pno.

37

S

way, on - ly the strange - ly ex - ci - ting lie, a - fraid to re -

Pno. *mp*

42 *mf*

S mem-ber what the fish ig - nored, how the bird es - caped, or if the sheep o - beyed.

Pno. *mf*

47

S Till, lo - sing mem - o - ry, bird, fish, and sheep are ghost - ly, and

Pno.

52 *f*

S ghosts must do a - gain what gives them pain. Co - war - dice cries for

Pno.

56 3

S

an - gry skies, cold-ness for wa - ter, o - bed - i - ence for a mas - ter.

Pno.

60 *mf*

S

Shall me - mo - ry re - store the steps and the shore,

60

Pno.

mp

65

S

the face and the meet - ing place; shall the bird live, shall the fish dive, and

65

Pno.

69 *f*

S
 sheep o - bey in a sheep's way; can love re - mem - ber the

Pno. *mf*

73

S
 ques - tion and the an - swer, for love re - co - ver what has been dark and rich and warm all

Pno.

77

S
 o - - - - - ver?

Pno.