

Coretta Scott King,  
Mitch McConnell

# She Was Warned

female voice and piano • duration 4:00  
*highest edition* (for lower editions, see note below)

Kala Pierson  
(b. 1977)

**She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted.**

– U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, on silencing Senator Elizabeth Warren  
for reading Coretta Scott King's description of racist power abuse by Jeff Sessions,

which begins,  
**"I write to express my sincere opposition"**

**intenso, rubato** ♩ = 60

*dig into all glisses: all are long and very pronounced*

mf < f 4 p < mf mp < f 8 mp

She \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_

**intenso, rubato** ♩ = 60

*f*

Ped. #

*Pedal stays down (no pedal changes!) from m. 1 to m. 41*

*breathe in at least slightly at every rest, but maintain a connected line  
(a lyrical, intensely driving effect, not a 'breathless' effect)*

mf < f mp < f mp

\_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ was warned, \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_

*f mp f*

... Pedal still down (no changes) ...

This is the highest edition. Transposition is welcome, up to a perfect 4th lower. (Transposed editions are available at the URL below.)

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More info and a PDF of this score: [kalapierson.com/solovoice/she](http://kalapierson.com/solovoice/she)

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- 1) The score is distributed at a cost of \$0 (if you wish to pay something, please donate to an anti-racist or feminist group of your choice);
- 2) You can freely make and share copies of the score, as long as the copies aren't altered in any way.

♪ **Let me know about any planned performances** ♪

so I can thank you, help share your concert info, and see how far we can amplify this!

*sim. (breaths at all rests, but connected/driving lines)*

*mp*

was warned, she was gi - ven, was

... Pedal still down (no changes) ...

*still legato*

*mf*

24

gi - ven an ex - pla - na - tion, she was she

... Pedal still down (no changes) ...

28

*no rest this time:  
connected and intensifying*

*f*

was warned, ne-ver-the-less,

... Pedal still down (no changes) ...

*mf*

*f* 36

*mf*

she was ne-ver-the-less, she

... Pedal still down (no changes) ...

40 *f*

was warned,

... Pedal still down (no changes) ...

*mp* reading from King's letter: suddenly calm, confident, direct

44 *mp* "I write to ex -

*ff* *mp* *p*

*♩* = 66

... Pedal still down ...

\* (first pedal action of any kind since m. 1)

(m. 42 = first silence in the piece)

*Red.* standard pedal notation from this point until m. 62 (pedal changes only where indicated — only in mm. 53, 55, and 62)

48

press my sin - cere op - po - si - tion." "I write"

*mp* *pp* *mp*

across mm. 53-60, slowly moving from reading to internalizing: the word "I" becoming the singer (the singer hearing her own voice as resistance)

52 *mp* "I write"

*mf*

♩ = 54

56

*p* *mp*

*f*

60

*mf*

RH LH

now, radiant confidence — no sense of warning

*mf*

3

ne-ver-the-less, —

3

3

5

→ ... Pedal now stays down until m. 86 (no pedal changes) ...

64

radiant through end of piece: "she" and "I"

now part of the same impulse, equally lyrical

68

she

I

... Pedal still down (no changes) ...

*pp* *mf* *p*

*mp* *f* *mf* 72

*mf* 5

*mp* *f* *mf* 72

*ff* *pp* *mp* *f*

she

*mp* *f* *mf* 72

*ff* *pp* *mp* *f*

*pp* *mp* *f* 76

dynamics sim. (free swells) ...

*pp* *mp* *f*

*mf* *pp* *mf* *ff* 80

she

*mf* *pp* *mf* *ff*

*pp* *mf* *ff* 84 88

... Pedal still down ...

\* (first pedal action of any kind since m. 62)

Red.

(pedal up with voice) \*