

Single Photon

Melody/Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass [Piano not shown] *

By David Haines January 2020

Commissioned by North Cambridge Family Opera

Ritmico ♩ = 128

VERSE 1

Mel/Sop 1-4 4 5 *mp*

I sit a - lone in the dark dark dark dark

Mel/Sop 8

dark dark dark room

Mel/Sop 12

I'm star - ing straight a - head and not sure what I'm try - ing to see

Mel/Sop 16 18-19 2 20

I push a but - ton,

Mel/Sop 21

hear two sounds a se - cond a - part then have to say

Mel/Sop 25

Did I see a pho - ton with the se - cond sound? And how sure am I on a scale of one

Mel/Sop 29

to three?

Mel/Sop 33 **REFRAIN 1**

mf Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive A sing - le i - so - la -

Alto

mf Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive A sing - le i - so - la -

Tenor

mf Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive A sing - le i - so - la -

Bass

mf Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see

*The Melody line can either be sung unison during the verses or divided up in any way desired - between voice parts, say.

Mel/Sop 36

ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of light, can we real - ly see

Alto

ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of light, can we real - ly see

Tenor

8 ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of light, can we real - ly see

Bass

a pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see a pho -

Mel/Sop 39

a lone pho - ton? A sing - le so - li - ta - ry

Alto

a lone pho - ton? A sing - le so - li - ta - ry

Tenor

8 a lone pho - ton? A sing - le so - li - ta - ry

Bass

ton? Can we see a sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? sing - le so - li - ta - ry

Mel/Sop 42

pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!? 45-48 4

Alto

pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!? 4

Tenor

8 pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!? 4

Bass

pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton? 4

Mel/Sop 49 VERSE 2
mp "The most a - maz - ing thing is that it's not like see - ing

Mel/Sop 53
 light It's

Mel/Sop 57
 Al - most a feel - ing at the thres - hold of i - ma - gi - na - tion"

Mel/Sop 61 62-63 2 64
 Con - si - der - ing that nine - ty per cent of the

Mel/Sop 66
 pho - tons en - ter - ing the front of the eye Will ne - ver ev - er

Mel/Sop 70
 reach a rod cell My score of more than fif - ty per - cent is re - mar - ka - bly high!

75-76
 Mel/Sop 2 77 REFRAIN 2
f Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive
 Alto 2
f Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive
 Tenor 2
f Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive
 Bass 2
f Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see a

Mel/Sop
79

A sing - le i - so - la - ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of

Alto

A sing - le i - so - la - ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of

Tenor

8 A sing - le i - so - la - ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of

Bass

pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton?

Mel/Sop
82

light, can we real - ly see a lone pho - ton?

Alto

light, can we real - ly see a lone pho - ton?

Tenor

8 light, can we real - ly see a lone pho - ton?

Bass

Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see a sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho -

Mel/Sop
85

A sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!?

Alto

A sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!?

Tenor

8 A sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!?

Bass

ton? sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton?

REFRAIN 3/CODA

Mel/Sop 88 *pp*

Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive

Alto *pp*

Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive

Tenor *pp*

Is it tru - ly pos - si - ble for hu - mans to per - ceive

Bass *pp*

Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see a

Mel/Sop 91

A sing - le i - so - la - ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of

Alto

A sing - le i - so - la - ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of

Tenor

A sing - le i - so - la - ted el - e - men ta - ry Quan - tum par - ti - cle of

Bass

pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton?

Mel/Sop 94

light, can we real - ly see a lone pho - ton?

Alto

light, can we real - ly see a lone pho - ton?

Tenor

light, can we real - ly see a lone pho - ton?

Bass

Can we see a pho - ton? Can we see a sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho -

Mel/Sop
97
A sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!?

Alto
A sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!?

Tenor
8
A sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? Sing - le pho - ton!?

Bass
ton? sing - le so - li - ta - ry pho - ton? Can we see a pho - ton?

16th January 2020

NB I have used a quote from Alipasha Vaziri, a physicist at the Rockefeller University, New York City, as part of the text of this song:

"The most amazing thing is that it's not like seeing light. It's almost a feeling, at the threshold of imagination."