

Some texts for listening

When you see a film with a dead actor in it, he/she stays dead, whatever part he or she is playing; when you hear the voice of a dead actor, the sound of the breath brings him/her to life again

Martin Esslin [Writer, critic, translator, and Head of BBC Radio Drama 1963 – 1977]

In that flat landscape [Illinois] a man cursing at his horses somewhere off in the fields can be heard a long way. All sounds carry: the dinner bell, wheels crossing a cattle guard, the clatter of farm machinery. When the gasoline engine sputters and dies or the blades of the mowing machine jam, Cletus knows that Mr Wilson, a quarter of a mile away, has heard it and is waiting for the sound of the engine or the mowing machine to start up again. If it doesn't, he leaves his own work and comes across the pasture to see what the trouble is. With their heads almost touching, his father and Mr Wilson study the difficulty. Wrenches and pliers pass back and forth between them with as much familiarity as if they owned their four hands in common

William Maxwell [Novelist and Editor, in his 1980 novel *So Long See You Tomorrow*]

What is for the eye must not duplicate what is for the ear

Image and sound must not support each other but must work each in turn through *a sort of relay*

The eye solicited alone makes the ear impatient, the ear solicited alone makes the eye impatient.  
*Use these impatiences*

Robert Bresson [Film-maker 1901 – 1999]

Poetry gives you hope that life is not just reality. If my memory starts to go I hope I remember Baudelaire, Prévert, Aragon, and just forget the rest

Agnes Varda [Photographer and film-maker 1928 - ]

If you stamp your feet softly while the movements of your body are strong, you will appear forceful without seeming vulgar; If you stamp your feet powerfully and move your body gently, the loud noise of your feet will be counteracted by the gentle movement of your body and the difference between what is heard and what is seen will create a harmony composed of both elements and the spectator's interest will be held

Zeami Motokiyo [Founder of Japanese Noh Theatre c. 1363 – c. 1443]

When I dream about my father who died in 1989, he never speaks

Piers Plowright [Broadcaster, lecturer, and critic 1937 - ]