

# The Boxer

Words and Music by Paul Simon

Moderato

*mf*

C F6 C F6 C F6 C F6

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords in a steady, rhythmic pattern. The left hand plays a melodic line with eighth notes, moving in parallel motion with the right hand's chords. The tempo is marked 'Moderato' and the dynamic is 'mf'.

*mp*

I am just a poor boy, though my sto - ry's sel - dom told, I have

C Am

The first vocal line is on a single staff. The melody is simple and conversational. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The dynamic is 'mp'.

squand-ered my re - sis - tance for a poc - ket - ful of mum - bles, such are

G G7 C G

The second vocal line continues the melody. The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line with eighth notes. The dynamic is 'mp'.

prom - i - ses. All lies and jest, still a

C Am

The third vocal line includes a long note for 'prom - i - ses.' followed by a short rest. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and chords. The dynamic is 'mp'.

man hears what he wants to hear, - and dis - re-gards the rest. When I

G F C F6 C F6

The final vocal line concludes the phrase. The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line with eighth notes. The dynamic is 'mp'.

left my home and my fam - i - ly, — I was no more than a boy, in the

C Am

com - pa - ny — of stran - gers, in the qui - et of a rail - way sta - tion

G F6 C

run - ning scared. ... Lay - ing low, seek - ing

Am

out the poor - er quart - ers where the rag - ged peo - ple go, Look - ing

G F C

for the pla - ces on - ly they would know. Lie - la

G Dm G7 C F6 C

lie, Lei - la - lie la lie - la - lie lie - la - lie.

Am G Am

Lie - la - lie la la la la lie, — la la la la lie. — Ask-ing

F C F C F6 C F6

on - ly work-man's wag - es, I come look-ing for a job, but I get no of - fers.

C Am G

— Just a come-on from the whores on Sev-enth Av - e - nue. —

Dm C

I do de - clare, there were times — when I was so lone-some, I

Am G F

took some comfort there. Ooo-la - la - la - la - la - la. Then I'm

C G

lay - ing out my win - ter clothes and wish - ing I was gone, go - ing

C Am

home, Where the New York Ci - ty, win - ters are - n't

G Dm G7 C

bleed - ing me, lead - ing me, go - ing

Em Am

home. In the clear - ing stands a box - er, and a fight - er by his

G C

trade, And he car-ries the re-mind-ers of ev-'ry glove that laid him down, or

Am G G7 C

cut him till he cried out in his an-ger and his shame, "I am leav-ing, I am

Am G

leav-ing," but the fight-er still re-mains. Lie-la-lie,

F C Am

Lei-la-lie la-lie-la-lie lie-la-lie. Lie-la-

G Am

-lie la la la la lie, la la la la lie. Lie-la-

F C F C F6 C

*Repeat and fade*