

5 years of silence

the stage.”

Chronologically, “Silence: A Literary History” covers everything from the empty halls of “Beowulf” to COVID lockdowns and beyond. (There are glances even further back, too; I like to think of Harvard professors turning deep green with envy at the news that Pythagoras required his pupils to keep quiet for *five years* before they could presume to pipe up.) Space is found not only for “the twelfth-century D

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