The Lark
By Fereydoon Moshiri

One can slash the strings of this lyre.
One can smash the belly of this lute¹.
One can decree:
   “Hear ye, hear ye!”
   “The grand drum,”
   “Must remain silent from now on!”

Yet, to a lark,
One cannot tell: “You may not sing!”

Translated by Franak Moshiri
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¹ In the original poem in Persian, the instrument is Tar, a long-necked, plucked string instrument with double sound-bowls. The translator has taken poetic license in this case.