

Hearing a Black Hole

Using the Chandra Observatory, astronomers for the first time detected sound waves from a supermassive black hole, 250 million light years from Earth, the "note" is the deepest ever detected from an object in the Universe. (Sept. 9, 2003)

It is the first we have heard of her From within the bowels of the Perseus cluster A groan beyond primeval moan No longer the sound of silence Instead a lament in -b flat

Deeper than human hearing
By a million million times
Detected by a ripple
And as a robin may not be muted by light
So this star may not be muted by night

A constant for two and a half Billion years, now a heard unheard Overture to creation, elegy to Armageddon Emerging from a destructive mass A cauldron of seething, breathing gas

Whilst we have vainly searched the sky Scouring the horizon, wondering, All the time she has been speaking to us Reaching out from ,and into, the darkness For us to listen

Gary Longden 2012 © Longlist Poet - Birmingham Poet Laureate 2012/2013