

Listening to Jupiter

June Palmer

Call it what you like
The music, the language of the cosmos
is ours
The expanding universe, the supernova;
red shifting light from distant stars

Does it matter
if dark energy exists, filling the space
between
galactic islands; enigmatic energy
imagined but forever unseen

Far-off galaxies
bending space and time across
the vast
dimensions, the observable universe.
Can we glimpse our past?

Tweak gravity.
Particles are good vibrations:
music.
An ensemble of invisible strings.
Science may confuse it

yet planets sing,
and underlying unities of nature
hear.
I have listened to Jupiter;
am sure of the music of the spheres.

Music of the spheres is an ancient philosophical concept that regards proportions in the movements of celestial bodies—the Sun, Moon, and planets—as a form of "music" not usually thought to be literally audible, but a harmonic, mathematical or religious concept. The idea continued to appeal to thinkers about music until the end of the Renaissance, influencing scholars of many kinds, including humanists.

June Palmer was educated at Liverpool Girls College. She helps run a writers group in Stoke, and published a book of poetry "The last Pictish man". June has had two poems accepted for the "Poetry of Staffordshire" anthology and had some success with short stories at the 6 X6 Reading Café.