

## Silent Bones

Patrick Chapman

Mouths are for feeding, music for funerals.  
Fingers degrade, blunted by graft.  
Cords knot and fray.

No more will you pound

You put it away in the hope of good hands  
two generations or more  
down the line

the bodhrán to pattern

but the wished-for successor, that vector,  
may never hear her father  
recall how his own

a rhythm on skin

could stir up the notes in a room full of dust.  
She will carry your melody  
out in a box.

*Patrick Chapman has published six poetry collections and two of fiction – including *A Promiscuity of Spines: New & Selected Poems* (2012) and *The Negative Cutter* (novellas, 2014). He has written an award-winning short film, a *Doctor Who* audio adventure, and many episodes for children’s animated television. In 2014 he produced an adaptation of Ray Bradbury’s *The Martian Chronicles* for BBC Radio 4, featuring Derek Jacobi and Hayley Atwell. This won Silver at the 2015 New York Festivals World’s Best Radio Programs. With Dimitra Xidou he founded and edits the online poetry magazine *The Pickled Body*. His next collection, *Slow Clocks of Decay*, appears from Salmon in 2016.*

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