



Photograph of a Bird in Song

His roosting songfulness -
The whisper of his wing music -
I am songless at his far-carrying
flight song.

Rose-breasted, large-eyed,
he gives a call not heard
at any other time,
beginning with a single, begging note,

a subsong of about seven notes,
then turns away his head,
holding up his beak a day's length
to clouds at different levels in the foliage.

Medbh McGuckian

This poem was commissioned by the poet David Hart on behalf of the Arts Council. It is one of a collection of fifty poems by different UK poets - each on the subject of waiting. The poems are for display in waiting rooms.