

Geo-music - music inspired by all things 'geo'
Create your own geo-music

The sound of the Silurian seabed

At the start there are two themes as the layers of greywacke and mudstone are laid down deep on the ocean floor:

- the mudstone is a gentle, pianissimo theme based on G, A, B, C, B, C, representing the slow fall of sediment

- the greywacke: is loud octaves of F,E, Eb, C, A representing a sudden drop of material forming a graded bed.

The piece starts with mudstone, then the alternation of these themes, repeated with variations (music is full of repetitions) forms the main section which goes on until a mighty fortissimo, when the Earth rumbles and the layers are upended.

Then there is a mixing of the two themes for a while but with a gradual fading of the mudstone theme until only the greywacke is left.

*Wynne Harlen.
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Silurian greywackes, Eyemouth

Photo: Patrick Dixon



Photo: Elizabeth Devon