

‘Miss Keller “Hears” Tenor’

Helen Keller the world’s most famous blind and deaf woman, placed her fingers on the lips and throat of Enrico Caruso, the Metropolitan Tenor, in his rooms in the Georgian Terrace Hotel today and “heard” him sing the lament of Sampson from Saint-Saens’s opera, *Samson et Delila*. Through the medium of her marvelously sensitive fingers the matchless voice of the great tenor was transmitted to her soul, and as she sat and “listened,” her lips apart, her sightless eyes wet with tears, she whispered over and over again: “Wonderful, wonderful.” Caruso sang the aria in the first scene of the last act of the opera and sang with power that brought tears to the eyes of other Metropolitan singers who were in the room. And as he sang his voice grew husky with the pathos of the song.



“Though I cannot see your face, I can feel the pathos of your song,” said Miss Keller. And Caruso said, with his lips against her hands: “In your fingers I can feel your soul. In your blue eyes your soul is shining.” Miss Keller almost collapsed, so powerfully had the voice of the tenor stirred her.

—*New York Times*, April 24, 1916

joy, upon witnessing a private concert of the legendary tenor, Enrico Caruso.

The Extended Sensorium

These questions take on an even greater existential quality as we move to realize our extraterrestrial imperative. We are already beginning to realize, that in order to survive and act beyond the protective womb of Earth, we have to become masters of phenomena, whose powerful effects range across the whole of the EM spectrum, and that we must develop new forms of extended instrumentation (e.g., the electron scanning microscope and various advanced telescopes), which enable us to make these phenomena objects of conscious mentation and willful manipulation, to the potential effect that our inborn simple sense faculties, as currently understood, lose more and more of their functional significance. For example, in “looking” at our Sun or a nebula like the Crab, in different ranges of the EM spectrum, we get very different impressions of what their actual structures are (**Figures 4 and 5**).

So using different instrumentation to capture different parts of the EM spectrum emitted by an object (e.g., radio frequency, infrared, gamma radiation), we get a

different sense of what the object is. We are beginning to sense different projections of reality, beyond that which is typically accessible to the average person.

FIGURE 4
The Sun

