A Puzzle to Ponder: Is Time Like Sound?

Prompted by Augustine’s philosophical confession, it’s worth asking: is there even such a thing as time? Maybe it is only in our mind. Time might exist only as a relationship between us and our world. If so, time could be similar to sound. Most of us accept the idea that there is a real world apart from us. A tree can live in the forest whether or not we see it, but what about the sounds it might make? There is an old, well-known, puzzle:

If a tree falls in the middle of a forest and nobody is nearby, does the falling of the tree make a sound?

Like many questions, this puzzle might be answered yes or no, or even maybe. Before we grapple with this question, a humorous variant is worth considering:

If a tree falls in the middle of a forest and nobody is nearby, will the other trees make fun of it?