The Great Silence

For Violin, Piano, and Narrator

A mixed-media work of music & poetry

By Eric Starr

"What if you were the last one?"

The Great Silence asks what it means to be a sole survivor. Born from a thought experiment on the nature of existence, this work explores trauma, healing, hope, and transcendence.

A cosmic elegy and a story of transmission.

The narrative is told through the eyes of Aubrey, a biologist who believes she is the last person on Earth. Set against the backdrop of ecological collapse and global war, the poetry weaves together indigenous creation stories, historic tragedies, and deeply personal memories.

In a futuristic tale, Aubrey embarks on a perilous journey across interstellar space, carrying memories of her mother, a lost civilization, and a natural world that has fallen silent. Along the way, figures and images emerge from her past—including ancestral voices, vanished landscapes, and birds in flight—as the boundaries between memory, history, dream, and reality gradually dissolve. Ultimately, this is a cosmic elegy that becomes a story of transmission: from ancestor to survivor, mother to daughter, and Earth to a distant planet.

The music reflects shifting emotions, which range from wonder to despair. Featuring soaring melodies and passages of quiet meditation, this work probes the mysteries of life and death amid the vastness of space.