

TO A LOST WORLD

TO A LOST WORLD is a musical prayer, a proactive spiritual response to hard times. When circumstances are dark without, it's good to find light within. Again and again, I find myself writing music as a way to comfort myself, to make myself feel better. And it works. Every time. Music is redemptive and healing. It speaks to the deepest parts of ourselves.

The main musical motif of TO A LOST WORLD is a reverent chord-melody created jointly by four overlapping instruments. The first time it is heard is right at the very beginning of the piece, with four french horns. Each horn carries one voice, and the four voices work together to create the melody, moving through some gently ascending chords. I call this my prayer motif. It comes back several times – softly and peacefully on four clarinets (morphing into four flutes), then resolutely and as a call to action on four trumpets over an insistent timpani beat, and finally near the end, as a quiet coda, with all of the voices played on the solo harp. The initial prayer is followed by a flowing hymn, first portrayed in the low brass, with long graceful lines and a noble tone. The hymn also comes back later, in the middle of the piece, as a joyful tutti, following the trumpet calls.

Over the course of history, the human race has come up with a lot of ways to express spirituality using music. I borrowed a few of those and translated them into my own musical language for the purposes of this piece. It's kind of like a mix tape of sacred music. There are sections that resemble the chants of monks, something that sounds a bit like plainsong, the trumpet heralds, several amen cadences, various types of chorales, some ceremonial drums, and of course plenty of harp.

Lost is not forever. That which is lost can be restored.