

Non-Verbal Excommunication

Non-Verbal Excommunication has several layers working at once, and seems like a fitting title for an instrumental:

- **Non-verbal** immediately connects to my special-needs son, Aiden, who at age 14 still does not talk. But he LOVES music, and it is one of the ways I communicate with him.
- **Communication** is literally embedded in **excommunication** — but interrupted and transformed by “**ex**.” In Latin, *ex* means “out of” or “from,” and I keep hoping that my son will somehow break *out of* whatever is holding him back from talking.
- An **instrumental** is itself a form of non-verbal communication: conveying emotion, personality, tension, meaning, and so much more without words.
- **Excommunication** carries this huge religious meaning — being cast out or excluded — which gets another layer because I’m not religious. It also connects to the fact that special-needs people, too, are often in a world of their own: set apart, misunderstood, or excluded simply because they are different. I’ve also always liked the idea of standing out from the masses rather than simply being included in them: *outside the crowd, outside the expected path, outside the norm*.
- And there’s something almost paradoxical about the phrase “**non-verbal excommunication**.” It sounds like being excluded, separated, or cut off *without anyone ever saying anything*.

And visually, even the words themselves are cool:

NON-VERBAL EX-COMMUNICATION

You can almost see the wordplay sitting there.

What I particularly like is that somebody who knows nothing about my personal story can still think, “*That’s a fascinating title.*” But for me, it has a much deeper private meaning involving my son, communication, my stance on religion/non-religion, individuality, and probably a whole range of emotions that other listeners don’t even need to understand intellectually for the title to work — but that I hope they will somehow feel in the music.