

Contents

Introduction — xi

1 — The Shores of the Cosmic Ocean — 3

2 — One Voice in the Cosmic Fugue — 23

3 — The Harmony of Worlds — 45

4 — Heaven and Hell — 73

5 — Blues for a Red Planet — 105

6 — Travelers' Tales — 137

7 — The Backbone of Night — 167

8 — Travels in Space and Time — 195

9 — The Lives of the Stars — 217

10 — The Edge of Forever — 245

11 — The Persistence of Memory — 269

12 — Encyclopaedia Galactica — 291

13 — Who Speaks for Earth? — 317

Appendix 1: *Reductio ad Absurdum* and the Square Root of Two — 3

Appendix 2: The Five Pythagorean Solids — 348

For Further Reading — 350

Index — 357