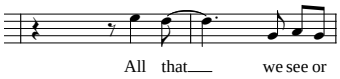
Program Notes for *A Dream within a Dream*

A Dream Within a Dream is an early poem by Edgar Allen Poe. I wanted my music to have a deep connection with the poet and the words that I find so inspiring, so I used his name for the basic theme of the work.

E D G A (from EDGAr) makes a very expressive motive full of the kind of wistful longing for answers found in the poem, and that is what I use to construct important parts of the piece.



This is the motive that is used to set the main two lines of the poem that are repeated and give the work its title. It is preceded by a short prologue for the piano and cello that sets a haunting tone for the poem. It was completed in April, 2004 and was premiered in Austin, Texas on April 27th, 2004. It won first place in the 2006 Austin State Peay University Composition Competition.