

## Program Notes

'Passing Thoughts' was written in June, 2005 at the MUSIC05 festival in Cincinnati. I usually can't get any composing done away from home, but I had been wanting to write something for solo piano for awhile, and we did have two hours off every afternoon. The idea behind the piece is that of using different harmonic ticks that crop up again and again in different styles of music. I wanted to use them in such a way that, taken out of context, they sound quite different. The main rhythmic motive is a nod to Brahms, whose work I was finally allowing myself to listen to again, after deciding that I needed to stay away from him for a period of time in order to develop my own language. I related well to the anecdote of Barber running out of the hall when Brahms' Piano Quintet was being performed because he knew he needed to do get out of the composers' harmonic shadow.