

Robert Paterson

A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM

for A Cappella Choir

Text by Edgar Allan Poe

© Robert Paterson Music (ASCAP)

A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM

Program Notes

The text for *A Dream Within A Dream* is derived from Edgar Allan Poe's poem of the same name. Poe wrote this poem when he was eighteen, and it was first published in 1849, the year he died. The poem may be viewed as a reflection on Poe's feelings about his life at the time, and dramatizes his confusion in watching the important people in his life slip away, like grains of sand. Realizing he cannot hold onto even one grain of sand leads to his final question: "Is all that we see or seem, But a dream within a dream?"

A Dream Within A Dream was commissioned by Festival Europäische Kirchenmusik for Nicol Matt and the Chamber Choir of Europe.

– RP

Explanation of Notation

- – suggested breath marks
- / – subito (when placed before a dynamic, i.e. / *f*)
- () – All markings in parenthesis are courtesy/cautionary markings.
- All accidentals last for the entire measure, unless they are canceled out by another accidental (such as a natural sign). Accidental only apply to the line or space they are on.

World Premiere
Chamber Choir of Europe
Nicol Matt, Director
July 28, 2010
European Festival of Church Music
Schwäbisch Gemünd, Germany.

Duration: ca. 7'00"

A Dream Within A Dream

Take this kiss upon the brow!
And, in parting from you now,
This much let me avow-
You are not wrong, who deem
That my days have been a dream;
Yet if hope has flown away
In a night, or in a day,
In a vision, or in none,
Is it therefore the less gone?
All that we see or seem
Is but a dream within a dream.

I stand amid the roar
Of a surf-tormented shore,
And I hold within my hand
Grains of the golden sand-
How few! yet how they creep
Through my fingers to the deep,
While I weep- while I weep!
O God! can I not grasp
Them with a tighter clasp?
O God! can I not save
One from the pitiless wave?
Is all that we see or seem
But a dream within a dream?

Edgar Allan Poe

Text in the public domain.

Commissioned by Festival Europäische Kirchenmusik for Nicol Matt and the Chamber Choir of Europe

A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM

for A Cappella Choir

Text by Edgar Allan Poe
(1827)

Robert Paterson
(2010)

♩ = ca. 60, *adagio*

mf

Soprano
Take this kiss up-on the brow! — And, in part - ing from you now,

Soprano 2
Take this kiss up-on the brow! — And, in part - ing from you now,

mf *f* *mf*

Alto
Take brow! Take this kiss up-on the brow! And, now,

mf

Tenor
Take brow! — And, now,

mf

Bass
Take brow! — And, now,

PERUSAL COPY

4 5

Sop.
This much let me a - vow —

Sop. 2
This much let me a - vow —

f *mf* *f* *mf*

Alto
And, in part - ing from you now, This much let me a-vow This much let me a-vow

f *mf*

Ten.
And, in part - ing from you now, This much let me a - vow —

Bass
This much let me a - vow —

A Dream Within A Dream, text by Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1949). First published in 1849. Text in the public domain.

© Copyright 2011 Robert Paterson Music (ASCAP)
International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

7

Sop. *f*

Alto *f*

Ten. *f*

Ten. 2 *f*

Bass

Bass 2

You are not wrong, — who deem That my days — have been a dream; a dream; a dream;

You wrong, — deem That my days — dream; a dream; a dream; a

You wrong, — deem That my days — dream; a dream; a dream; a

deem dream; — a

deem dream; — a

11

Sop. *mf mfp mf p*

Sop. 2 *mf mfp mf p*

Alto *p mf p*

Ten. *p mf p*

Ten. 2 *p mf p*

Bass *p mf*

Bass 2 *p mf*

a dream; — Yet if hope has flown a - way flown — a - way

a dream; — Yet if hope has flown a - way flown — a - way

a dream; — Yet hope flown a - way — Yet if hope has flown a - way

dream; a dream; — Yet — Yet if hope has flown a - way

dream; a dream; — Yet — Yet if hope has flown a - way

dream; a dream; — Yet —

dream; a dream; — Yet —

f / *mf*

Sop. In a night, — or in a day, — In a vi - sion, or in none,

f / *mf* / *p*

Alto In a night, — or in a day, In a vi - sion, or in none, or in

f / *mf* / *p*

Alto 2 In a night, — or in a day, In a vi - sion, or in none, or in

f *mf* / *p*

Ten. In a night, — or in a day, or in none, or in

f *mf* / *p*

Ten. 2 In a night, — or in a day, or in none, or in

p *f* *p*

Bass In a night, — or in a day, or in

p *f* *p*

Bass 2 In a night, — or in a day, or in

PERUSAL COPY

A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM

24 25

Sop. Is in a dream. dream a dream

Alto Is but a dream with-in a dream with-in a dream. dream within a dream. dream with-in a dream.

Ten. Is in a dream dream with - in a dream. in a dream with -

Bass Is dream dream dream

Bass 2 Is dream dream

mp *mf* *mp*



28 30

Sop. a dream with in a dream. a dream.

Alto dream with-in a dream. dream with-in a dream. dream. within a dream. dream with-in a dream.

Ten. - in a dream. with - - in dream with in dream. in dream with -

Bass dream dream dream

Bass 2 dream dream

mf *mp* *mf* *mp*

