

Gregory J. Hutter

Spirits of the Dead

for Soprano, Cello and Piano

Distributed by
Subito Music Corporation
Verona, New Jersey 07044
SMD.SUBITOMUSIC.COM



Program Note

While the subject matter varies between the poems set in this cycle, the reflective and melancholy tone of the text weaves one cohesive mood that is attributed to Poe's well-known style. "Song" is a strophic setting that builds upon itself in textual and musical intensity with each strophe. "Hymn" employs an accompaniment that sounds very much like a typical hymn, juxtaposed by an irrelevant ostinato (a repeated rhythmic and melodic pattern) that is heard in the cello part. The centerpiece of the cycle, "Spirits of the Dead," begins with a rather existential melody heard in the piano part, which returns throughout the song in various guises. The setting of "The Lake: To—" is reflective the lieder of Schubert with its (mostly) traditional harmonic vocabulary and flowing rhythms. "To the River" is set in a form that reflects the literary structure of the poem: a dissonant middle section, reflective of the dramatic turn in the text, is encapsulated by outer sections that evoke a sensation of the flowing currents of a river.

—Gregory J. Hutter
Chicago, IL (2009)

Contents

I.	SONG	3
II.	HYMN	11
III.	SPIRITS OF THE DEAD	15
IV.	THE LAKE: TO-	25
V.	TO THE RIVER	32

Duration: ca. 18 minutes

Commissioned by Tracy Cowden with support from the Niles Faculty Research Award through the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech.

29 *mf* *mp* *p*

beam Of her soul - search-ing eyes.

sf *mp* *sf* *pp*

calando

(8)

June 8-July 8, 2009
Chicago, IL

Perusal Score Only
Not For Performance