

Gregory J. Hutter

# Spirits of the Dead

*for Soprano, Cello and Piano*

*Distributed by*  
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## 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)

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Duration: ca. 18 minutes

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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