

In the spring of 2005, I was unsuccessfully working on a string quartet. At the height of my frustration, I changed direction to work on a choral piece for Schola Cantorum of San Francisco, hoping that poetry would inspire some musical ideas. While browsing poetry anthologies, I read 'In Dreams' from *Songs of Travel* by Robert Louis Stevenson and was attracted to its striking imagery and efficient use of language which inspired a dream-like texture with interweaving voices and diatonic dissonances. These threads are a consistent feature of the work, along with staggered entries marking the beginning of most sections