

Dreamchild

Dreamchild is a piece about Lewis Carroll's *Alice*. I have selected texts that view Alice and childhood through several different pairs of looking-glass eyes. These texts subsequently germinate all the musical material, colours, textures and compositional techniques that are employed in the piece.

The sound world of *Dreamchild* is rich with disparate influences, quotations and stylistic references, ranging from a strictly serial isorhythmic motet, through Bach, Schubert, Wagner, Brahms, Satie, Andriessen and Boulez to blues, rap and acid jazz. To bring these multifarious conflicting elements within the same musical orbit I had to invent a coherent musical language with a rigorous, consistent harmonic system that controls all the borrowed material. One of the principle musical tensions in *Dreamchild* lies between the autonomy and conformity of this borrowed material.