

Uneasy Dreams (2006)

for saxophone quartet

Tideland
A Blues for Sam Lowry
The Fisher King

Uneasy Dreams is based on fantasy sequences from films directed by Terry Gilliam.

The opening section, *Tideland*, conjures up eleven-year-old Jeliza-Rose's elaborate flights of fancy. The piece begins in murky twilight, the air punctuated by swarms of fireflies; the texture gradually transforms to evoke an underwater dream world. Sam Lowry, the anti-hero of *Brazil*, is an ordinary man trapped in a totalitarian dystopia but resigned to his fate. Gilliam's film *The Fisher King* retells the Parsifal story in modern-day New York. The music for this final section is a distorted and half-remembered chorale that draws on a chord sequence from Wagner's *Parsifal*.

All three sections of *Uneasy Dreams* run without a break; the piece lasts 8 minutes. The title is borrowed from the first sentence of Kafka's metamorphosis:

As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect.

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