

Robert G. Patterson
Night Vision (1993)

Program Notes

Initially, *Night Vision* was to be an updated version of a baroque dance suite. Instead of the typical baroque dance forms it was to use more recent forms instead. Some elements of this conception remain. The first movement is a prelude, the second a nocturne, the third a recitative, the fourth a burlesque, and the fifth a slow serenade. As the final piece emerged, however, the movements seemed to acquire an organic unity and weight that superseded the suite concept. The dark qualities in each movement suggested a nocturnal theme, and eventually I arrived at *Night Vision*.

The title contains a double-meaning, and this is intentional. Night vision could mean a vision (dream, haunting, mirage?) seen at night. It also, paradoxically, means the ability to see the real world well at night. I view *Night Vision* as a succession of dream-visions that coalesce to reveal a hidden truth. Of course, for each listener this truth is different.