Jointly commissioned by the Music Teachers National Association and the Michigan Music Teachers Association, USA 2009

First performed October 11, 2009 at the Michigan Music Teachers Association State Conference Bay City, Michigan, USA

by

Paul Dwyer

Recording available from the composer:

Paul Dooley
707-292-8863
paul@pauldooley.net
COMPOSER'S NOTE

*Gradus* (2009) was jointly commissioned by the Music Teachers National Association and the Michigan Music Teachers Association. It was first performed at the MMTA State Conference in October 2009.

Gradus was written in honor of Paul Dwyer’s first cello teacher, Walther Fuchs. The title comes from the famous treatise on counterpoint, *Gradus ad Parnassum*, by Johann Fux. This title, translated as “Steps to Parnassum,” represents the establishment of the teaching method; one may follow the steps and someday reach enlightenment, or, Parnassum.

The seven movements of Gradus play off Fux’s teaching of voice leading, dissonance treatment and contour. Gradus follows one possible path of the proverbial “student musician,” composer or performer, through struggle and reward. New plateaus are reached and then forgotten in the endless pursuit of mastery.

-Paul Dooley
in the string

harmonic gliss.

molto sul pont.

ord.

sul pont.

* m73-74, 76: Dampen open D string
\[ \dot{=} 69 \text{ molto accel.} \quad \dot{=} 126 \quad \dot{=} 69 \text{ (sub.)} \quad \dot{=} 88 \text{ (sub.)} \quad \text{piano sul pont.} \quad \text{molto sul pont.} \]

\[ \text{piano} \quad \text{molto accel.} \quad \text{piano} \quad \text{molto rit.} \quad \text{molto accel.} \]

\[ \text{ff maestoso} \quad \text{ffp} \quad \text{ff} \]

\[ \dot{=} 96 \]

\[ \text{VI.} \]

\[ \dot{=} 138 \text{ (sub.)} \quad \text{lunga} \quad \text{lunga} \quad \text{lunga} \]

\[ \dot{=} 52 \text{ (sub.)} \quad \text{accel.} \quad \text{ritardato} \]

\[ \text{attacca} \quad \text{attacca} \]

\[ \text{attacca} \quad \text{attacca} \]

\[ \text{attacca} \quad \text{attacca} \]

\[ \text{attacca} \quad \text{attacca} \]