

Grace and Decay (2017)

for guitar solo
Brendon Randall-Myers

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Performance Notes

Dropped-D Tuning

The low E string is tuned down a whole step to D.

Notation

As the bulk of the notes in this piece are natural harmonics, the piece is notated in two staves - one for fingered pitches and one for sounding pitches. Sometimes these differ depending on where it seemed practical to play a given passage.

Unusual Upper Harmonics

For some upper harmonics you'll need to place your finger partway between normal fingering positions for adjacent frets. In the score, I've indicated where to play these using microtonal accidentals and a decimal in arabic numerals after the normal roman numeral fret marker. For example, II.7 and an natural accidental with an arrow pointing down indicates lightly touching the string 7/10s of the way between the 2nd and 3rd frets, and sounds two octaves and a slightly flat minor seventh above the open string.

In this piece I use upper harmonics fingered at the following "frets":

- III.2 - fingered 1/5 of the way between the 3rd and 4th frets, sounds two octaves and a fifth above the open string. Accidental notated in the played staff as a natural with an arrow pointing up.
- II.7 (described above)
- II.3 - 3/10 of the way between 2nd and 3rd frets, sounds 3 octaves above the open string. Accidental notated in the played staff as a backwards flat sign.

Harmonics Chart

Below is a list of all the harmonics used in the piece organized by string, in descending fingered position. I've included information on fingered and sounding pitches, string, and fret.

	Low D String	A String	D String	D String (cont'd)	G String	B String	High E String
sounding							
played							
	IX ⑥	XII ⑤	XII ④	IV ④	XII ③	XII ②	XII ①
	VII ⑥	IX ⑤	IX ④	III.2 ④	IX ③	VII ②	VII ①
	V ⑥	VII ⑤	VII ④	II.7 ④	VII ③	V ②	V ①
	IV ⑥	V ⑤	V ④	II.3 ④	V ③		
	II.7 ⑥	IV ⑤			IV ③		

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♩ = 54-56

flexible, expressive and resonant

musical score for "Grace and Decay" by Brendon Randall-Myers. The score is written for a single melodic line, divided into "sounding" and "played" parts. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 54-56, and the performance style is "flexible, expressive and resonant".

The score is organized into four systems, each with a measure number (1, 3, 5, 8) at the beginning of the first staff. The notation includes various musical symbols such as treble and bass clefs, key signatures (one sharp), time signatures (4/4, 3/4, 2/4), and dynamic markings (p, f). The "sounding" part is written in a higher register, while the "played" part is in a lower register.

The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. Fingering numbers (1-5) are indicated for many notes. Chord symbols (IV, VII, IX, XII, V) are placed above the notes in the "played" part, indicating the harmonic structure. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

2

11

13

16

17

1. 2.

1. 2.