

Four Epitaphs

for viola

I. George McCormack

II. CXLVII

III. Whinny

IV. Forgotten

8 minutes

Brooke Joyce (1997)

Premiered at the Scotia Festival of Music by David Marks, 1997

Program Note:

I wrote this music while visiting Nova Scotia in 1997. I became particularly fascinated by an old cemetery in Halifax, where I discovered the grave of George McCormack, remarkable for the haunting Victorian imagery of its headstone. The final movement came from the graves of several unknown persons in the same cemetery. The inner movements are nods to Shostakovich and Britten.