

Canticum Graduum

for organ (also version for string orchestra)

3 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2010)

Commissioned by Gregory Peterson

Premiered by Gregory Peterson at the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Conference, July
2010

Program Note:

Canticum Graduum was composed for Gregory Peterson and premiered at the 2010 Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Conference in Boulder, Colorado. It is a musical reflection of Psalm 121:

A song of ascents.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
 where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD,
 the Maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot slip—
 he who watches over you will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
 will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD watches over you—
 the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day,
 nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all harm—
 he will watch over your life;
- 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going
 both now and forevermore.

Musical ideas are borrowed from the eleven standard harmonies produced by the Japanese *sho*, a wind instrument that resembles a small pipe organ.