

MASTER'S THESIS

A Survey of the historical and pedagogical significance of Muzio Clementi's *Gradus ad Parnassum*

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A Survey of the Historical and Pedagogical Significance of
Muzio Clementi's *Gradus ad Parnassum*

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Abstract

This study recognizes the historical and pedagogical significance of Muzio Clementi's *Gradus ad Parnassum*. Four factors that may have affected the composition of the *Gradus* are briefly discussed at first so as to provide the readers with the historical background of this composition. To reveal the *Gradus*' significance, a comparison between the technical content in the *Gradus* and those in Czerny's *The Art of Finger Dexterity* forms the core of this study. The comparison is made according to eight categories of techniques contained in both collections. Similarities in technical content found between the two collections help to support my contention that the *Gradus* may be considered as precedents of Czerny's *The Art of Finger Dexterity*.

Another comparison is made between the technical and musical content in the *Gradus* and those in the school and virtuoso études of the nineteenth century. The comparison is made according to each of the characteristics of these two types of études genres. Similarities found in the comparison helps to support my proposition that the technical content of the *Gradus* may have initiated the development of these characteristics into two paths—the school études and virtuoso études.

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