

Fragment

from Sappho

For female voice and bass clarinet

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Δέδυκε μὲν ἅ σελάννα
καὶ Πληΐαδες, μέσαι δὲ
νύκτες πάρα δ' ἔρχετ' ὥρα,
ἔγω δὲ μόνα κατεύδω.

The sinking moon has left the sky,
The Pleiades have also gone.
Midnight comes - and goes, the hours fly
And solitary still, I lie.

This singularly beautiful fragment is quoted by Hephaestion as an example of metre. With the "Hymn to Aphrodite" it was the first portion of the Poems of Sappho to be printed in 1554.

The above translation is from "The Poems of Sappho, with Historical and Critical Notes, Translations, and a Bibliography" by Edwin Marion Cox, Published 1925. The translations are in the public domain in the United States due to the lack of copyright notice in the 1925 edition.

Performance notes:

Pronunciation guide:

Original greek - transliteration in Latin alphabet as in lyrics - phonetic transcription

Δέ-δυ-κε μεν ἄ σε-λά-ννα / κα-ὶ Πλη-ῖ-α-δεσ, μέ-σαι δὲ / νύ-κτεσ πά-ρα δ' ἔρ-χε-τ' ὥ-ρα, /
De-du-ke men a se-la - nna / ka-i ple – i-a-des, me-sai de / nu-ktes pa-ra d' er-he – to-ra, /
De-du-ke men æ se-læ- næ / kæ-i ple - ɪ-æ-des, me- sæɪ de / nu-ktes pæ-ræ d'er-he - təu-ræ, /

ἔ-γω δὲ μό-να κα-τεύ-δω.

e-go de mo-na ka-teu- do.

e-gəʊ de məʊ-næ kæ-teu-dəʊ.

Voice:

The part should be sung always with a very pure tone and great simplicity of expression



Sing like a *hush* sound (ʃ)

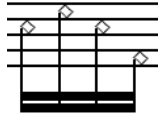


Pronounce as a harsh “*ts*” sound

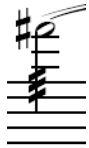
Bass clarinet:

Grace notes should be played always accented and before the beat

Microtonal and multiphonic fingering is from P.Rehfeldt, *New Directions for Clarinet*, 1994.



Breathing sound



Flutter-tongue

Fragment from Sappho

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♩ = 120 *ppp* *mp* *crescendo*

Voice

sh dedudedude du de dedu kedu ke duke du ke du ke du ke me keme ke men

B♭ Bass Clarinet

ppp *mp* *crescendo*

3:2 3:2 3:2 5:2 3:2

3:2 3:2



crescendo *mf*

5

Vc.

a se a se a se a se la se a se la na lan

B. Cl.

crescendo *mf*

5:4 3:2 3:2 5:3

3:2

Vc. *ppp* *molto discorsivo p crescendo*

8 na ka i ple i kakaplekaka i ple i ka i ple i kai _____ plei a ka i ple i

B. Cl. *ppp* *crescendo*

Vc. *crescendo* *mf*

11 plei a des ka i ple i a desple i a des _____ ka _____ i _____ ple _____ i a _____ de es kai plei a des ka _____ plekapleka

B. Cl. *crescendo* *mf*

14

Vc.

3:2

ka i plei a des me ple ia des ka i ple i mesa i de mesa me sa i de me

B. Cl.

3:2

ff

17

Vc.

5:4

sa i me sa me sa i de sa i de me sa i de me sa me sa i de mesaide

B. Cl.

3:2

subito p

20

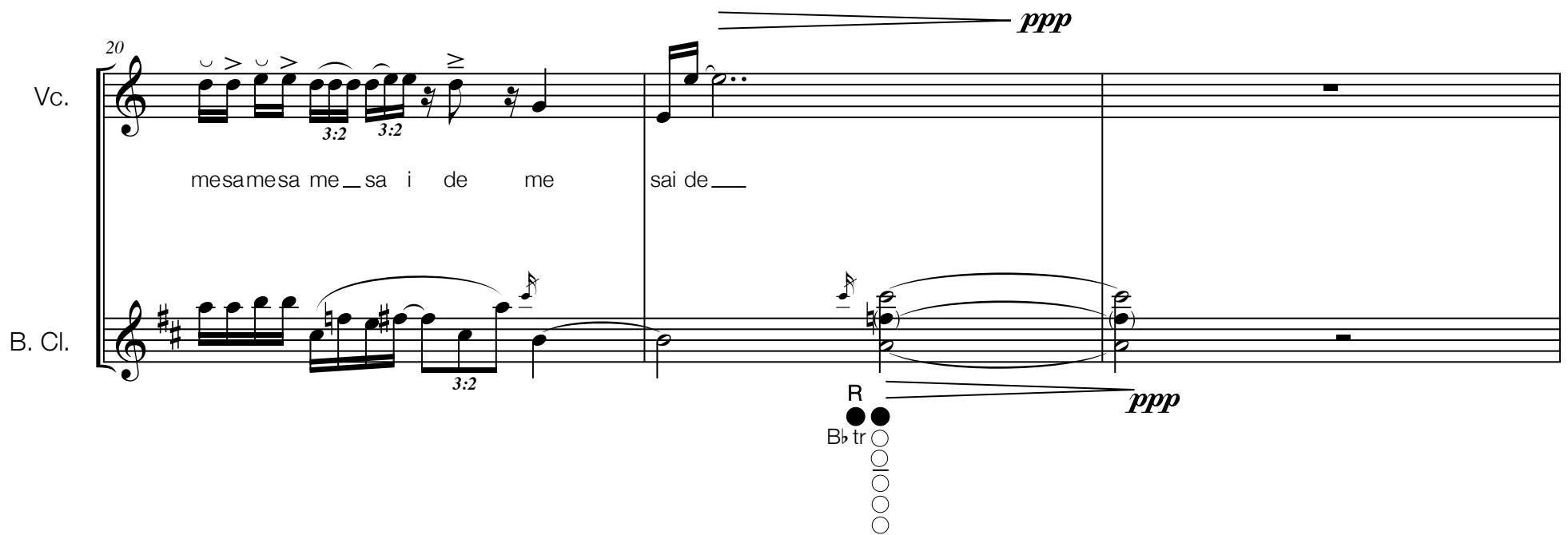
Vc.

B. Cl.

mesamesa me__sa i de me sai de__

ppp

R
B $\sharp$ tr



23

Vc.

B. Cl.

nu ts nu ktes ts nu ts nu ktes ts nu ktes ts ts ts nuktes pa____ ts pa ra ts pa

piu' animato

f

f



26 *crescendo* -----

Vc. *3:2*

ts ts pa ra ts de ts de ts he to ts he he ts der he to ra ts o ra ts o ra ts o ts der he to ra ___ der he to ___ ra ___ o ___

B. Cl. *3:2*

crescendo -----

29 *ff*

Vc. *p sommess*

___ ra o ___ ra ___ o ra ___ e ___ go ___

B. Cl. *ff* *3:2* *molto vibrato* ----- *ppp*

32 *crescendo* -----

Vc. *3:2* *3:2* *3:2*

e go__ e go mo na e__ go e gomo egoe go__ mona e gomona ka__ e gomona ka teu do e go e go

B. Cl. *p*

35 *f*

Vc. *3:2* *3:2* *3:2*

mo__ na e gomo na e go mo na ka ka keteudokakaka te ka__ de ke teu do

B. Cl. *f*

diminuendo-----

38

Vc.

3:2 5:4 3:2

de mona e go ka e go demo na e go mo na ka te u do ka teu

B. Cl.

5:4

diminuendo-----

rit. diminuendo-----

41

Vc.

p

kateudo ka teudo ka teu do ka teu do ka do

B. Cl.

rit.

diminuendo-----