

Sappho 31

Lyrics by Sappho
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Quickly
(spoken, forcefully and dramatic)

SOPRANO

As a **god** to me is he, that man who sits to face you and can sim - ply

ALTO

As a **god** to me is he, that man who sits to face you and can sim - ply

TENOR

As a **god** to me is he, that man who sits to face you and can sim - ply

BASS

As a **god** to me is he, that man who sits to face you and can sim - ply

$\text{♩} = 80$ (close to "n" quickly)

3 *f* list - en _____ to your sweet *dolce* speak - ing,

f list - en _____ to your sweet speak - ing *mf* list en _____

mf list - en _____ to your sweet *mf* list en _____

mf list - en to your speak -

2

6 *f* *mp* *accel.*

list-en to to your sweet speak - ing, list en to your sweet sweet

9

ing to your sweet speak - ing, to your sweet speak - ing sweet

each soprano "finds" a non-sop. next to them and begins talking to them animatedly, in a girlish voice

one sop. laughs right on cutoff, then continues talking for a moment, finishing off some trite and petty phrase.

11 -

nodding agreement, bored, not really listening
mm-hmm.

continue with improvised "baroque" phrases, accel. and move to extremes of the vocal ranges, cartoonish.

on cue, hard cut!, then turn to listen to last soprano

mm-hmm.

mm-hmm.

10 seconds

13 ♩=76

but your sweet laugh-ter makes my heart

but your sweet laugh-ter makes my heart

but your sweet laugh-ter makes my heart

but your sweet laugh-ter makes my heart

3

3

hov-er ing in my chest

sfp close quickly to "n" *sfp*

pound

pound

sfp close quickly to "n"

pound!

thm

4

16 *dolce mp*

and your sweet laugh - ter makes my heart pound

3 3 3 3 *sfp*

hov-er-ing in hov-er-ing hov-er-ing in hov-er-ing pound

sfp *sfp* *sfp*

8 pound pound pound

thm thm thm thm thm thm

(like a heartbeat)

each sop. sings once,
quickly and quietly,
almost spoken

19

p

and a-way!

for when I look at you, my words are fleet

for when I look at you, my words are fleet

basses accel. in unison

mf *ff*

thm thm thm thm

23 **f** **24** ♩=128 **molto accel.** *(with increasing desperation)*⁵

my tongue breaks,

(quick exhale) and thin fire runs be-neath my
(fi - er)

(quick exhale) my tongue breaks, fire run
(fi - er)

(cont.) thm fire run
(fi - er)

26 **ff** **28** ♩=50

and eyes lose sight noth - ing!

skin and I hear noth - ing!

and I hear noth - ing!

and eyes lose sight thm thm thm thm

6

whispered, each "this" lands on a beat with the basses.

29

but this

but this

but this

thm thm thm thm thm thm thm thm thm thm

on cue *mp dolce*

my pound - ing

32

heart _____ listen _____ to my pound-ing, to my pound-ing,

ha

ha

ha

mf *f*

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

36 39 ♩=68 *pp*

heart _____ grip grip

f ah ah ah ah and cold sweat grips, and shak-ing grips and

f ah ah and cold sweat grips, and shak-ing grips and

f *subito p* ah ah mmm

41 *rall.* ♩=50

pale as the sum-mer grass I pass from life to
(pa - yul)

p *pale* as the sum-mer grass I pass from some-thing like to
(pa - yul)

p *pale* as the sum-mer grass from life to
(pa - yul)

45 *mf*

some - thing like death ah

death ah

some - thing like death ah

51 *slowly decres. to null*

000

000

000

mf solo: I en - dure.

be - reft of you, (hold through)