

Vilnai

Sleek Aphrodite

for voice and viola

on the poetry of

Sappho

Duration: approx. 30'

## *Paralysis*

Mother darling, I can't work the loom,  
for sleek Aphrodite has almost crushed  
and broken me with desire for a boy.

## *End of a Party*

### *Night*

has tossed peace into confusion.  
the mind  
collapses.  
Yet come, my friends,  
for soon it will be day.

## *Weathercocks*

### *I*

am conscious  
how often  
those whom I treated  
most kindly  
especially injure me now.

## *Then*

### *In gold sandals*

down like a thief  
fell upon me

## *Brightness in Time of Storm*

*B*brightness. With luck we'll reach  
the harbor, solid ground  
for our black ships.

*W*e are sailors under great gales,  
hoping for dry land  
to sail to alive with our cargo.

*O*ne the sky is transforming,  
Awash in the storm we have many  
urgent labors ahead. Dry land.

## *A Ring*

*S*illy woman. Why do you lose your head  
crooning about a ring?

## *The Guard Outside the Bridal Chamber*

*O*ne the doorkeeper's feet are seven fathoms long,  
and ten shoemakers used up five coarse ox hides  
in cobbling together his giant sandals.

## *The Virgin*

Like a sweet apple reddening on the high  
tip of the topmost branch and forgotten  
by the apple pickers, not missed but beyond their reach.

Like a hyacinth crushed in the mountains  
by men shepherding, lying trampled on the earth  
yet blooming purple.

## *No Oblivion*

Someone, I tell you,  
will remember us.

## *Homecoming*

You came  
when I was longing for you,  
and to my heart suffering in passion's fire  
you were  
delicious ice.

*from*  
*Friend You Are Gone, But Remember Me*

*Go and be happy.*

*But remember me, for surely you  
know how we worshipped you. If not,*

*then I want to remind you of all  
the exquisite days  
we two shared; how*

*You took garlands of violets,  
crocuses and roses, and when by my side  
you tied them round you in soft bands,*

*and you took many flowers  
and flung them in loops  
about your sapling throat,*

*How the air was rich with a scent  
of queenly spices made of myrrh  
you rubbed smoothly on your limbs,*

And on soft beds, gently, your desire  
for delicate young women  
was satisfied,

And how there was no dance and no  
holy shrine  
we two didn't share,

No sound,

no  
grove.

TRANSLATED BY WILLIS BARNSTONE

Sappho

# Sleek Aphrodite

Vilnai

Confident

$\text{J} = 120$

Oct 4, 2011

pizz. > arco      pizz. > arco      pizz. > arco      pizz. > arco

$f$

5      sul pont.      arco [ord.]      pizz.

10       $p$

arco      sul pont. a talon      ord.

$f$        $mf$

sul pont.      pizz.      sul C arco      pizz. >

$sfz sfz$        $sfz sfz$

$sfz sfz p$       più  $p$        $f$

25       $sfz p$        $sfz p f^3$

sul pont.      pizz. arco

$mp$

30      6

$sfz f$       35      ff       $mp$

2

Molto Rubato, Introspective  
molto rit.  $\text{♩} = \text{approx. } 44$

approx. 15"

# *Paralysis*

*Passionate*

*Mother*

*Mother darling*

mo -ther dar ling I can't work the

*ff* *sfp* *mf* *ff* *sfp* *mf*

## Suddenly wondering

 $p = 50$ 

crushed and bro - ken me with de-sire for a boy

$\text{p} = 50$

crushed and bro - ken me with de-sire for a boy

n.

$\text{G.P.}$

Passionate, more

Mo - ther mo - ther dar - ling - I can't work the

$ff$

Mo - ther mo - ther dar - ling - I can't work the

$ff$

$sfz$

$f$

$ff$

$sfz$

$f$

loom for sleek Aph - ro - di - te has al - most

loom for sleek Aph - ro - di - te has al - most

$ff$

As before

 $p = 50 \text{ } p$ 

crushed and bro - ken me with de - sire for a boy with de - sire for a boy with de - sire for a boy

$p = 50 \text{ } p$

molto rit.

crushed and bro - ken me with de - sire for a boy with de - sire for a boy with de - sire for a boy

pizz. arco

pizz. arco

$pp$

$n.$

Relaxed, swaying

# End of a Party

*sord.*

$\text{♩} = 66$

Finger Cymbals

*mp* almost spoken, clean  
slightly staccato

in - to con - fu - sion      Night has tossed peace in -

*sul tasto*      *pp*

to con - fu - sion      Night has tossed

*senza sord.*      *p*      *mf*      *+ sfz*

peace in - to con - fu - sion      *pizz.*      *arco*      *f wild.*

Night has tossed peace in - to con - fu - sul pont.

*fp*      *molto*      *ff*

*gloss.*      *gloss.*

*pp*

*p* [sub.]

Broad, rubato, anxious

$\text{♩} = \text{approx. } 50$

Night has tossed peace in-to con-fu-sion  
harmonic gliss  
sul G

arco

$f$   $f$   $pp$   $\text{♩} = 66$

sul tasto a la punta

the mind col

sim.

5 6 55 3 5

lap-ses

the mind col-lap-ses

$\text{♩} = 60$   $p$  freely

yet come my friends for soon it will be

60 3 3 60 ppp

day

pizz.

$\text{♩} = 60$   $p$

65  $p$  70

# Weathercocks

With motion, urgent

$\text{♩} = 88$

$\text{♩} = 76$

poco rit..

$\text{♩} = 88$

*mf*

I am con - scious      how of - ten      those whom I trea - ted

10 *mp*

poco rit.. - - ,  $\text{♩} = 76$

*f*

most\_ kind\_ly      es - pecial ly in - jure      es - pecial ly in - jure      es - pecial ly in - jure me

15 *f*

*mp*

*d* = 100

9

now now now I am con -scious

*p*

20 *mf*

This section starts with three sustained notes on 'now' from both voices. The soprano then begins a melodic line with eighth-note pairs. The basso continuo provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. Measure 4 concludes with a melodic phrase from the soprano.

rit.

how of - ten those whom I trea - ted most kind - ly

This section features a melodic line from the soprano with eighth-note pairs. The basso continuo provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. The vocal line continues through measure 8.

*f*

*d* = 68

es - pe cial -ly injure es - pe cial -ly injure es -

25 *f*

This section begins with a melodic line from the soprano. The basso continuo provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. Measure 12 concludes with a melodic phrase from the soprano.

pe cial -ly injure me now injureme now injureme now injureme now

This section features a melodic line from the soprano. The basso continuo provides harmonic support with eighth-note chords. The vocal line continues through measure 16.

# Shen

Dreamy

 $\text{♪} = 92$ *mp*

Musical score for piano, page 10. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and 5/8 time. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and 5/8 time. The tempo is indicated as  $\text{♪} = 92$  and dynamic *mp*. The lyrics "In gold san - dals" are repeated three times. The first two repetitions are in 2/4 time, and the third is in 6/8 time. The dynamic *sord.* is indicated for the first repetition. The bottom staff has a dynamic *p* at the beginning. Measure numbers 1 through 5 are present above the staff.

Musical score for piano, page 10. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and 6/8 time. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and 6/8 time. The lyrics "dawn like a thief" are repeated three times. The first two repetitions are in 3/8 time, and the third is in 2/4 time. Dynamics include *cresc.*, *10*, and *sempr. cresc.* Measure numbers 10 and 15 are present below the staff.

Musical score for piano, page 10. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and 2/4 time. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and 2/4 time. The lyrics "thief" and "fell up - on me" are present. The dynamic *p* is indicated at the end of the measure. Measure numbers 15 and 20 are present below the staff.

Musical score for piano, page 10. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and 2/4 time. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and 2/4 time. The lyrics "fell up - on me" are present. The dynamic *p* is indicated at the end of the measure. Measure number 20 is present below the staff.

# Brightness in Time of Storm

Gentle

 $\text{♩} = 60$ 

$\frac{5}{4}$

$\frac{5}{4}$   $\frac{5}{4}$   $\frac{5}{4}$   $\frac{5}{4}$

$mf$   $p$   $mf$   $p$   $mf$   $p$   $mf$

s.p. ord.

$\frac{5}{4}$

$sul pont.$   $ord.$   $sul pont. 6$   $with motion$

$sfz$   $6$   $mf$   $sfz$   $mf$

5

$\frac{5}{4}$

$sempre cresc.$

$fp$

$\text{♩} = 52$

$mp$   $mf$   $mp$   $p$

poco rit..

Bright ness\_ with luck we'll reach the har - bor so - lid ground for our black ships

$3$   $4$   $4$   $5$

$mp$   $mf$   $mp$   $p$

15

**With much motion**

$\text{♩} = 66$

$\text{♩} = 66$

*mf*

pizz. arco

we are sai - lors un - der great gales

*pizz. arco*

*f*

3  
hop - ing for dry land

to sail to a - live

*ff*

20

accel. . . . .  $\text{♩} = 76$

*f*

with our car - go

bright - - -

pizz. arco

ord./sul pont. ad lib

*f*

*mf*

25

Musical score for piano, page 30. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and 3/4 time signature, with key changes indicated by Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV, V). The lyrics "ness", "bright", and "ness" are written below the notes. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and 3/4 time signature, with key changes indicated by Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV, V). The score includes dynamic markings such as > (staccato), - (slur), and various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) throughout the measures.

Musical score for piano, page 35. The top staff shows a melodic line with various note heads and rests, set against a background of vertical bars representing harmonic changes. The time signature shifts between 4/4, 3/4, and 5/4. The bottom staff shows a harmonic progression with bass notes and rests. The vocal line consists of the word "bright-ness" repeated four times, each time aligned with a different harmonic change. The vocal line is written in a clear, legible font below the staff.

Brooding, cloudy

$\text{♩} = 60$

**p**

40      **pp**

**pp**

45      9

50

# A Ring

Light, jazzy

 $\text{♩} = 80$ 

**6**

pizz.  
a la guitarra

**f**

**4**

almost spoken, simple  
**mp**

Sil - ly wo - man

5

3

why do you

waste      your\_time

3

sil-ly wo-man

why do you

10

waste your time

croon-ing a - bout

croon-ing a - bout

croon-ing a - bout

a ring

15

# The Guard Outside the Bridal Chamber

Intense, epic

 $\text{♩} = 88$ 

Finger Cymbals *mf*

sul pont.

*ff* wild and fast

The door-keep-er's feet are se-ven fa-thoms long

ord.

*f*

5

[slap]

and ten shome-ma-kers used

*ff* sim.

10

up five coarse ox-hides

ord.

*f*

15

*mp*

sul pont.

*ff* sim.

20

*f*

ord.

25

30

*p*

sul pont.

*ff* sim.

35

*f*

in cobb - ling      to - ge - ther his      gi - ant san -

40

dals

45

*ff*

# The Virgin

Sweet, sexy

 $\text{♩} = 48$ 

$\text{G} \frac{2}{4}$

$\text{B} \frac{2}{4}$

$\text{mp}$        $mf$

$\text{G} \frac{2}{4}$

$\text{B} \frac{2}{4}$

$< f$        $mp$

$\text{G} \frac{2}{4}$

$\text{B} \frac{2}{4}$

$15$        $+ 20$        $Like a sweet$        $rit.$        $mp$        $52$

$mp$        $mfp$

$\text{G} \frac{2}{4}$

$\text{B} \frac{2}{4}$

$apple$        $red-d'ning on the$        $high tip$        $of the$        $top - most$        $branch$        $and for-$

$25$        $p$        $mp$

$\text{G} \frac{2}{4}$

$\text{B} \frac{2}{4}$

$got - ten$        $by the$        $ap - ple$        $pick - ers$        $not$        $missed$        $but be-yond their$

$30$        $p$        $+ 34$        $mfp$        $2$

Musical score for page 35, measures 1-10. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. It contains ten measures, each starting with a quarter note. The bottom staff is a bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. It also contains ten measures, each starting with a quarter note. Measure 1: Treble staff has a 'reach' instruction above it. Bass staff has a dynamic 'p' below it. Measures 2-10: Both staves show a pattern of eighth-note pairs followed by a sixteenth-note pair. The bass staff includes 'slap' and 'pizz.' markings above the notes. Measure 35 is indicated at the beginning of the bass staff's measure 10.

Much more freely, sustenuto, intense

$\text{♩} = \text{approx. } 40$

*mf*

Musical score for piano and voice. The piano part features a bass line with eighth-note chords and a treble line with eighth-note patterns. The vocal part begins with "moun -tains" and "by". The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings *mf* and *6*. The vocal line continues with "men she - pher - ding—" followed by a measure of silence. The piano accompaniment ends with a dynamic *6*.

20

ly - ing tram - pled on the  
ord.  
Sweet again  
 $\text{♩} = 48$

earth yet bloom - ing pur - ple [scat]

$f$   $3$   
ord.  
 $f$   
 $6$   $6$   
Sweet again  
 $\text{♩} = 48$

$mp$   
 $fp$   
 $50$   
 $6$   $6$

55

pizz. arco

rit.

60

65

# No Oblivion

$\text{♩} = 40$

sord.  
col legno battuto

arco

col legno battuto  
3 5

arco

col legno battuto  
6

[ ricochet ]

col legno tratto  
sul C

col legno battuto  
6

fp

fp

pp

Some-one I tell you

arco

col legno battuto  
5 3

arco

col legno battuto

col legno tratto

10

will re - mem - ber us

col legno tratto

col legno battuto  
5

15

Rubato  
approx.  $\text{♩} = 40$

# Homecoming

use lots of bow pressure to produce harmonics.  
gradually increase tremolo  
ord. → sul pont.

**mp**

[spoken]

you came | when I was long-ing for you— | and to

sim. sim. sim.

**[ossia 8va]**

my heart suf - fering in pa-ssion's f - ire | you were de - li - cious

sim. rit. **ppp**

**pp** whispered

ice ice ice ice

sim. sul pont. ord.

**pp** [pp]

# Friend, You Are Gone

Very freely  
approx.  $\text{♩} = 88$

*mp*

9 8

Go and be hap - py      but re - mem - ber me      for sure - ly you know how I wor - shipped you

9 8

X 5 8

[ spoken, **p** ]: if not, then I want to remind you of all the

9 5 8

5  $\text{♩} = 96$

5 8

exquisite days we two shared [pause] how you took garlands of violets, crocuses and roses

sord.

**pp**      **p** espr.      **pp**      sim.      10

5 8

and when by my side, you tied them round you in soft bands [pause]

9 5 8

15

9 5 8

and you took many flowers and flung them in loops about your sapling throat [pause]

20

how the air was

rich in a scent of queenly spices made of myrrh you rubbed smoothly on your limbs, and on soft beds, gently

30

*p* *mp* espr. *p* sim.

your desire for delicate young women was satisfied

35

*pp* [sub.] 40

and how there was no dance and no holy shrine we two didn't share [pause]

45

no sound [pause] no grove poco rit.

50