

Klasmata LXXIV

for Soprano, Trumpet, Violin, Viola, ~2'

Spencer Klaw Kennedy, 2025

PROGRAM NOTES

This work is a setting of Sappho's fragment 74 (a fragment with four parts.) Four phrases can be extracted from the disintegrating parchment on which these were scrawled: "herd of goats," "rose," "desire," and "sweat," alongside smatterings of individual letters. Reading fragments (both those of Sappho and in general) is very different from reading complete poems; it becomes an exercise in reading between the lines, attempting to find out what she sang so many millennia ago, and from that putting your own meaning and words in the gaps.

These fragments are here presented in their entirety, along with a transcription of the words in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

FRAGMENT 74

[74A]	[74B]	[74C]	[74D]
] ων ἔκα[]αιπόλ[]μ.[]βροδο[]ονθ[]φαμ[	]α[]ποθο[].ώβα[	]·[]ας ἰδρω].υζαδ.[]ιϛ[	]·[.]·ε[]νπο.[]μ[
ɔːn héka npól m brodo ont ^h p ^h aĩm	aː pot ^h o óːba	ashídrɔː wuksad iːn	e n.po m

Klasmata LXXIV

on Sappho

Spencer Klaw Kennedy

♩ = 63, peaceful

Soprano

p < *mf* *mp* < *f* > decresc. very fast

on he - ka

Trumpet in Bb

straight mute

pp < *p* >

Violin

II III I

p *p*

Viola

III III IV

p *p*

7

S.

p < *mf* > *mp*

n - pol um

Tpt. in Bb

p *mp*

Vln.

II III non harm. s.t.

p *p*

Vla.

III m.s.p.

p *p*

12

S. *mf* *f* *ff*
bro - do - on bro - do - on - tuh

Tpt. in Bb *mf* *f*

Vln. *mp* *mf* *f*
m.s.p. → ord.

Vla. *mp* *mf* *f*
m.s.p. → ord.

16

S. *f*
p^haim a: po - t^ho

Tpt. in Bb *mf* *p*
no mute

Vln. *mf* *pp*
ord. → m.s.p.

Vla. *mf* *pp*
ord. → m.s.t.

20

S. *f*

ó: - ba _____ as - hí - dró wuk sad _____ i:n _____

Tpt. in B $\flat$ *mf*

Vln. *gliss.* *gliss.* *ord.* *tr* *(#)* *sub. mf*

Vla. *ord.* *I* *II* *sub. mf*

24

S. *mf* *f*

_____ e _____ in po _____

Tpt. in B $\flat$ *3*

Vln. *ord.* *s.t.*

Vla. *ord.* *s.p.*

28

S. *f* m

Tpt. in B $\flat$ straight mute

Vln. m.s.t. ord. I non trem. II trem.

Vla. m.s.p. ord. IV non trem.

pp *p*

32

S. *mf* m

Tpt. in B $\flat$ *mf*

Vln. trem. non trem. *f*

Vla. trem. non trem. *f*