

Fragments of love songs

for 2-6 voices in the same register

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2016

Performance notes

Ensemble

This work is to be performed by 2-6 singers. There is no restriction as to voice type, but all singers should be able to sing in the same register (so that there are no octave doublings).

Entries

The performance is intended to be as a performer-led, flexible canon. Singers should be numbered according to their entry order, and remember that order for the end, when all singers have to split two-voice chords, with the odd-numbered singers singing the bottom line and the even-numbered singers singing the top line.

All voices must enter initially at the location indicated with “Voice entry all” – as indicated in the score, once a singer enters here, they repeat these measures until another voice enters, at which point they proceed.

Voices can proceed to any of the three numbered entry points (i.e., “Entry 1”), once they have moved on from the starting point. However, once they have selected an entry point to move to, they must proceed through the score directly – essentially, singers cannot jump from entry point to entry point.

Repetition

The score is to be repeated in full twice. These repetitions exclude the beginning and the end (for example, a singer entering at entry point 2 will play through entry point 2, entry point 3, entry point 1 – this counts as a single repetition).

Once a singer completes two full repetitions, they must proceed to the “voice exit all” indicated in the score, and repeat these measures until everyone arrives there, at which point everyone can proceed to the end.

Accidentals

Accidentals in parentheses: quarter tones in parentheses should be observed during the first repetition and IGNORED in the second, full sharps should be observed only during the second repetition.

Text

The text consists of eight words or phrases that have been attributed to Sappho. They translate into the following text fragments in English: *soul, altogether, I should be able, as long as indeed is to me, to flash back, fair face, stained over, friend*. The text uses the original Greek, but is written in IPA; all pronunciations should therefore follow IPA.

fragments of love songs

for 2-6 voices

poetry by Sappho
music by Alyssa Aska

Voice entry all

repeat this continuously, varying accents, and rhythm, until another voice enters. Then proceed through the rest of the score, beginning at any entry point

Slow tempo, voices move independently of one another; not coordinated

♩ = 40-50

Hushed; almost whispered
pp sempre

Voice

T^h t^h e t^h t^h e t^h e t^h T^y: mon, m i m i m i m m i m i mi-pa:m-pan m i m mi-pa:m-pan m

Entry 1

Abrupt; stuttered
pp (very consistent dynamic; over-emphasize accents)

Vce.

i mi-pa:m-pan mi-pa:m-pan mi-pa:m pan, D - y dy - - - na - mail A sken

Entry 2

Smoothly, no vibrato

Vce.

i - moi, An - ti - - lam - pe:n an ti an ti lam pe:n, ka - - -

Entry 3

With gentle admiration

Vce.

- lon ka - - - lon pro - - so - pon, Sy: sy: sy:

Voice exit all

Proceed to this measure only after completing two full playthroughs (once you reach the end of your second repetition, jump to this measure no matter where your ending is. Repeat this measure until all players have arrived, then all proceed to the final measure together.

even numbered voices = top line; odd numbered voices = bottom line
mp non-dim, non-vibrato

Vce.

Gkⁱ Sy: sy: Gk^{roi} - st^{eis}, I - - - tai i - - - tai - - - ros.