

Lyrics by Sappho  
Translated and adapted by  
Michael A. Lee

# Sappho 31

by Michael A. Lee

**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*)

2

*f* list - en \_\_\_\_\_ *dolce* to your sweet speak - ing,

*f* list - en \_\_\_\_\_ to your sweet speak - ing *mf* list - en \_\_\_\_\_

*f* list - en \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* to your sweet list - en \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* list - en to your speak -

5

*mp* **accel.**

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

to your sweet sweet

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

8

to your sweet

speak - - - ing, to your sweet

speak - - - ing sweet



16 *dolce mp* *sfp*

and your sweet laugh - ter makes my heart pound, \_\_\_\_\_

hov-er-ing in hov-er-ing hov-er-ing in hov-er-ing pound, \_\_\_\_\_

pound pound pound \_\_\_\_\_

thm thm thm thm thm thm  
(like a heartbeat)

*each sop. sings once, quickly.  
top note is highest tonal pitch  
for each sop.*

19

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*

thm thm thm thm

*mf* *ff*

23

**24** ♩=128

**molto accel.** (with increasing desperation)

*f* my tongue breaks,

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

(long exhale) my tongue breaks, run (close quickly to "n")

(long exhale) (breathed) *f* fi

26

**28** ♩=50

*ff* and eyes lose sight noth - ing!

skin and I hear *ff* noth - ing!

*ff* and I hear noth - ing!

and eyes lose sight *pp* thm thm thm

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

29

*mp dolce*

but this my pound - ing

but this

but this

thm thm thm thm thm thm thm thm thm thm

32

heart list-en to my pound-ing, to my pound-ing

*mf* *f*

*mp* *mp*

ha

ha

ha

36 39 ♩=80 *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

*slowly decres. to null,  
then each, long exhale*

50

000

000

000

*mf* solo: I en - dure.

be - reft of you,  
(hold through)

[3 min. 15 sec.]