

**Wayne Siegel: Close Orbit (2005)**  
for mezzo soprano, guitar and electronics  
commissioned by Orpheus Duo with support  
from the Danish Arts Foundation

*Close Orbit* was commissioned by Duo Orfeus and premiered as a theater concert in 2005. The work consists of eight songs based on poems by the ancient Greek poet Sappho of Lesbos (ca. 620 – 570 BC). Reliable sources (including Plato!) have described Sappho as being one of the greatest poets of her age. Yet nearly all of her works have been lost, only a few small fragments remaining.



Charles-August Mengin: Sappho (1877)

Some of these fragments freely adapted by the composer comprise the lyrics for *Close Orbit*. The songs are intertwined with electronic sounds and interludes. A version of this work entitled *Sappho Fragments* includes the eight songs without electronics.

Orpheus Duo  
Christina Dahl, sang  
Anne-Mette Skovbjerg, guitar  
for mezzo soprano, guitar and electronics

#### **Sappho Fragments**

freely adapted by Wayne Siegel after Sappho of Lesbos

#### **On Beauty**

Some say the most beautiful thing  
on this dark earth  
is an army of horsemen,  
some say an army of foot soldiers,  
others again say a fleet of warships,  
but for me it is the sight of my lover

#### **Sappho's Dream**

In my dream I spoke  
to the goddess from Cyprus

#### **In Golden Cups**

Come goddess of Cyprus  
In golden cups serve nectar  
Gently mixed with delights

#### **Sleep Softly**

Sleep softly on  
Your lover's breast

#### **Yearning**

I yearn,  
I seek.

#### **Insomnia**

Dark-eyed sleep  
Child of night  
You have forgotten me.

#### **Sappho's Lullaby**

The Moon has left the sky,  
The Pleiades have also gone.  
It is midnight,  
And time slips by,  
But on my couch alone I lie.

#### **Unrelenting**

Love, unrelenting, takes control,  
Shakes my soul  
And fills me with bitter sweetness.

#### **The Apple**

At the end of the bough, the very end  
Overlooked by the harvesters  
Ripens the sweet apple  
No, not overlooked,  
But far out of reach