



Jonathan Dove

Sappho Sings

Ralph Woodward *directs*
Fairhaven Singers *with*
London Mozart Players



Tracklist

1	From Heaven to here	4.32
2	You burn me	2.24
3	Love shook my heart	1.14
4	Of Love	2.55
5	Night	3.26
6	Stars around the radiant moon	4.00

Programme Note

The Fairhaven Singers commissioned *Sappho Sings*, and gave its first performances in Bury St Edmunds and Cambridge in 2019. The haunting texts are fragments of verse by the ancient Greek poet Sappho (c.630–c.570 B.C.), in a modern translation by Alasdair Middleton.

The translation beautifully captures the sensuousness, lyricism and eroticism of

Sappho's originals, while the features that make Dove's music so attractive are amply on display: rhythmic vibrancy, memorable melodies, harmony that steers an effortless path between originality and familiarity, vivid orchestral colours, and a rich awareness of the subtleties of text. *Sappho Sings* is dedicated to Katie Tearle MBE, Director of New Music at Peters Edition.

Texts

1 From Heaven to here

From Heaven to here
Down
Your Orchard
Altars misty with incense
Cool water babbles through apple trees
Dappled with roses
Down through the shimmering leaves
Sleep slips
Horses grazing on clover out in the meadow
Here, Aphrodite, lift up the golden cup, filled,
Honey mingled with holidays,
And pour –

Fragment 2

2 You burn me

You burn me

Fragment 38

3 Love shook my heart

Love shook my heart
Like a storm among oak trees

Fragment 47

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4 Of Love

Of love
The sight of you
Among all women, you
From every care
You could release me
...on the river's bank
All night long

Fragment 23

5 Night

Night
Girls
All night long
Can sing of your love for the girl with flowers
on her thighs.
Wake up! Call all the boys!
And we will see less sleep than
the nightingales.

Fragment 30

6 Stars around the radiant moon

Stars around the radiant moon
Darken
When over the earth
She in her fullness shines
Silver

Fragment 34

Biographies

Jonathan Dove

Jonathan Dove's music has filled opera houses with delighted audiences of all ages on five continents. He is one of the most performed living opera composers and few, if any, contemporary composers have so successfully or consistently explored the potential of opera to communicate, to create wonder and to enrich people's lives.

Born in 1959 to architect parents, Dove's early musical experience came from playing the piano, organ and viola. Later he studied composition with Robin Holloway at Cambridge. His early professional experience gave him a deep understanding of singers and the complex mechanics of the opera house. Starting with his breakthrough opera *Flight* in 1998, Dove has gone on to write more than thirty operatic works. His television opera *When She Died...* (2002) was seen by 2.5 million people worldwide.

Dove's innate understanding of the individual voice is exemplified in his large

and varied choral and song output, and his confident optimism has made him the natural choice as the composer for big occasions.

Dove's work for orchestra has included a Proms commission for the BBC Symphony Orchestra *Gaia Theory* (2014) which takes its inspiration from the ground-breaking writings of scientist and environmentalist James Lovelock. His work for children and family audiences *Gaspard's Foxtrot*, was co-commissioned by the Philharmonia Orchestra, Three Choirs Festival Association, Docklands Sinfonia, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Royal Scottish National Orchestra and premiered in 2019. A second Musical Tale, *Gaspard's Christmas*, premieres in 2022.

Jonathan Dove won the 2008 Ivor Novello Award for classical music and was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's 2019 Birthday Honours for services to music.

www.jonathandove.com



Recording at St John's, Upper Norwood, London, 25 June 2022. Pictures: Mike Cooter



Biographies

Fairhaven Singers

The Fairhaven Singers is one of East Anglia's foremost chamber choirs.

The choir has performed at major venues such as Snape Maltings, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St John's Smith Square and St Paul's Cathedral, and

appeared on BBC Radios 2, 3 and 4, and Classic FM. They have commissioned works from a number of leading contemporary composers and released four previous CDs.

www.fairhavensingers.org.uk



Biographies

London Mozart Players

Don't let our name mislead you – we don't just play in London, and we certainly don't just play Mozart! As well as our residencies in Fairfield Halls, Croydon; St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood and De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, we work with internationally

recognised conductors and soloists to make adventurous, ambitious, and accessible music. Our work also includes embedding arts and culture into communities across the UK and beyond.

www.londonmozartplayers.com



Biographies

Ralph Woodward

Ralph Woodward studied Music as Organ Scholar at Queens' College, Cambridge. He is now Musical Director of the Fairhaven Singers, Full Score and Orchestral Score, and Interim Assistant Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge.

He carries out a wide range of editorial tasks for Oxford University Press and a number of the country's leading composers. Past projects have included work with Vladimir Ashkenazy, Emma Johnson, Iestyn Davies and Cradle of Filth.

www.ralphwoodward.net



Fairhaven Singers

Sopranos

Anna Asbach-Cullen,
Gill Attmore, Annabel Bradford,
Ruth Chandler,
Emily Dourish, Emma Hall,
Julia Herrick, Liz Mellor,
Hayley Ogilvie, Joanna Page,
Rachel Rogers,
Tessa Shercliff

Altos

Yvonne Higgons, Gill Humphrey,
Irmela Jamieson, Louise Place,
Rebecca Polson, Abbie Riddoch,
Hannah Walford

Tenors

Gareth Hayward, Martin Herrick,
Andrew Ireson, Neil Jerram,
Steve Mullock, Gavin Stark

Basses

John Aldridge,
Paul Ashley,
Tim Atkinson,
Tim Cutts,
Robin Higgons,
Gordon Ogilvie,
Simon Trist,
Mick Thurman

London Mozart Players

Violin 1

Simon Blendis, Harriet Haynes,
Nemanja Ljubinkovic,
Edward McCullagh,
Tamara Elias, Joonas Pekonen

Violin 2

Jennifer Godson,
Jeremy Metcalfe, Freddie August,
Robin Martin, Elizabeth Melville

Viola

Sophie Renshaw,
Christine Anderson, Joe Ichinose,
George White

Cello

Sebastian Comberti,
Ruth Alford, Eve Littlefair

Double Bass

Christopher West,
Beverley Jones

Flute

Laura Jellicoe,
Susie Hodder-Williams

Oboe

Gareth Hulse,
Katie Clemmow

Clarinet

Nicholas Carpenter,
Isaac Prince

Bassoon

Paul Boyes,
Alexandra Davidson

Horn

Hugh Sisley, Martin Grainger

Trumpet

Mark David, Peter Wright

Timpani & Percussion

Tom Lee

Sappho Sings

Ralph Woodward *directs* Fairhaven Singers
with London Mozart Players



Engineer: Adaq Khan

Producer: George Richford

Creative Director: Mike Cooter

Executive Producer: Adrian Green

Recorded at St John's, Upper Norwood, London, 25 June 2022

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Ralph Woodward image: Paul Ashley. **London Mozart Players image:** Kevin Day.

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