

## UNLEASH THE BEAUTY

I stand before you, face to face,  
Captivated by your sight,  
Your soft laughter,  
And your voice most gentle.

When I see you  
A dead trembling overwhelms me,  
And everything else is darkness.  
I am silenced.

Then my heart flutters wildly.  
I hear my pulse thundering  
With the sweat of emotion.  
Fire tingles through my flesh.

Text by Sappho; Greek lyric poet, born on the island of Lesbos  
(c.620-c.570 BC). Translation ©Alexander Campkin

### PROGRAMME NOTE

The text by Sappho contains so much energy, drive and emotion, which made it an excellent choice to set to music. Whilst we have no record of how Sappho set her texts to music on the Greek island of Lesbos in 600BC, I feel fortunate that we at least have record of these inspiring words. I have reinterpreted this text in a contemporary choral idiom which I feel has the power to move listeners today. This piece explores a range of vocal and colouristic effects to reflect the energy, beauty and passion within this text. I contrast fast lines with lyrical duets in the upper voices, as I create expansive soundworlds by combining singing alongside effects such as whistling and chord clusters.

Commissioned by The Fourth Choir, conducted by Dominic Peckham

# Unleash the beauty

Text by Sappho (c.620–c.570 BC),  
translated by the composer

Alexander Campkin

**Thundering** (♩ = c. 128)

SOPRANO  
ALTO  
TENOR  
BASS

Keyboard  
(rehearsal only)

9

S.  
A.  
T.  
B.

Kbd.

I stand before you, I stand before you, I stand before you, I stand before you.

18

S. *ffp* *f*  
be - fore you, be - fore you,

A. *ffp* *f*  
be - fore you, be - fore you,

T. *ffp* *f*  
be - fore you, be - fore you,

B. *ffp* *f*  
be - fore you, be - fore you,

Kbd.

28

S. *f* *ff*  
I stand be - fore you,

A. *f* *ff*  
I stand be - fore you,

T. *f* *ff*  
I stand be - fore you,

B. *f* *ff*  
I stand be - fore you,

Kbd.