

Poems of Catullus

Poems to Lesbia

for Baritone and Piano

by

Deborah Mason

Adapted from the

Translations

of

Robert Scotto



Come, let us live and love, my Lesbia.
Who cares if old men gossip with delight?
Suns will rise and set, but, when our light goes out,
We will sleep forever.
So, give me a thousand kisses, then two hundred.
Another thousand, another hundred - until we kiss
More often than jealous, evil people curse us -
Uncountable, untouched.

Poor Catullus, no woman was ever loved
The way you loved your Lesbia,
Most faithful, most indulgent,
Most careful to be kind.

Yet she has shunned you and your fancy gifts
That once she willingly enjoyed ...
Don't be a fool and chase what runs away.
Now I will be a real man, as hard as stone.

But you'll be sorry when you're all alone, you bitch!
Who will be kissing you? ...
Whose lips will you nibble? ...
Catullus, get a grip!

I hate and I love,
Why? you ask, I do not know, but tortured, only
feel that it is so.

From Catullus V, VIII, LXXXV and LXXXVII
Roman Poet 84-52 BC



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Music by Deborah Mason

Andante

Baritone

f LH

4

B

Come, let us live live and love, my Les-

mp LH

8

B

- bi - a. and love,

p LH *mp*

11

B

Who cares if old men gos-sip with de-light? Suns will rise and

11

p

14

B

set, but, when our light goes out, We will sleep for - e - ver.

14

mf

17

B

So, give me a thous - and

17

mf *f*

5

3

19

B

kis - ses, then two hun - dred. A - noth - er

22

B

thous - and, a - noth - er hun - dred

24

B

un - til we kiss un - til we kiss we kiss More

29 *mf*

oft-en than jeal-ous, e-vil peop-le curse us Un-count-a-ble, un - touched.

29 *p* *mf*

33 *mp*

Poor Catul-lus, no wo-man was e - ver

33 *mp*

36 *Bitter*

loved The way you loved your Les-bi-a, Most faith-ful, most in-

36

39

B

dul - - - gent, Most care - ful to be kind.

mp

43

B

**Poco piu
A piacere**

Yet she has

45

B

shunned you and your fan - cy gifts That

48

B

once she en - joyed she will - ing-ly en - joyed

52

B

Don't be a fool and chase what runs a-way.

56

B

Now I'll be a real man, as hard as stone. But you___ will be sor-ry when

59

B

you're all a - lone, You'll be sor-ry you

p *mp*

63

B

bitch! Who will you be kiss - ing?

f

66

B

Whose lips will you nib-ble? Ca - tull-us, get a

Agitato

Angry **f**

69

B

grip! I hate

69

f

5

f

71

B

I hate her I hate

71

rit.

3

74

Soft and wistful

B

and I love Why, you

74

3

3

77

B

ask? I do not know but tor - tured on - ly feel that

77

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score. It features a bass clef staff with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "ask? I do not know but tor - tured on - ly feel that". The music includes a triplet of eighth notes in the upper register of the bass staff. Below the bass staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble staff contains a triplet of eighth notes and a fermata. The bass staff contains a triplet of eighth notes and a fermata. The system ends with a double bar line.

80

B

it is so

80

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of a musical score. It features a bass clef staff with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "it is so". The music includes a fermata over the first measure. Below the bass staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble staff contains a fermata and a triplet of eighth notes. The bass staff contains a triplet of eighth notes and a fermata. The system ends with a double bar line.