

ANCIENT GREEK POET

Sappho

Sappho was an Ancient Greek poet from Eresos or Mytilene on the island of Lesbos. Her lyric poetry was written to be sung while accompanied by music. In ancient times, Sappho was widely regarded as one of the greatest lyric poets and given names such as the "Tenth Muse" and "The Poetess". Most of her poetry is now lost, and what remains has mostly survived in fragmentary form; only the Ode to Aphrodite is certainly complete.

Sappho was a prolific poet, probably composing around 10,000 lines. She was best-known in antiquity for her love poetry; other themes include family and religion. She probably wrote for both individual and choral performance, and her works are known for their clarity of language, vivid images, and immediacy. The context in which she composed her poems has long been the

subject of scholarly debate, with suggestions that she had some educational or religious role, or wrote for the symposium (the part of a banquet after the meal, when drinking for pleasure was accompanied by music, dancing and recitals).

The word lesbian is an allusion to Sappho, originating from the name of the island of Lesbos where she was born.

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