

]LIFE[for sho, hichiriki and glass chimes was written in autumn 2004 in Mariou on the Greek island of Crete, a work commissioned both by the hichiriki player Hitomi Nakamura and by the sho player Mayumi Miyata.

The piece is inspired by a poem fragment by the ancient Greek woman poet Sappho, the lyrics being whispered by the two performing artists. Today, not all elements of the original are known but the American poet Anne Carson created a congenial version of the fragment:

] *you will remember*
] *for we in our youth*
did these things

yes many and beautiful things
]
] *]*

] *we live*
] *the opposite*
] *daring*
]
]
]

] *in a light voice*
]

The titles of the three movements]remember...,]dare... und]speak... reflect the essence of the Sappho poem pointing out vital ideas in defiance of thousands of years of erosion.