

Grey Skorba/Red Skorba  
for trombone, bass trombone and timpani

9 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2019)

Commissioned by Durward Ensemble  
Premiered by Durward Ensemble, May 2019

Program Note:

*Grey Skorba/Red Skorba* is inspired by two styles of Neolithic pottery found on the island of Malta. The Skorba temple is one of the oldest temple complexes in the country, and is notable because it appears to have functioned both as a ritualistic and domestic site. Grey Skorba pottery is fairly simple in structure and design and is the older of the two styles; Red Skorba pottery was fired using a different technique and thus has a reddish hue, with slightly different decorations and features. What interests me most is not necessarily the pottery itself, but the idea that, based on a few shards of pottery and pile of old stones, we can deduce so much about a culture that thrived over 5,000 years ago. The music I've written is, therefore, built from a very limited number of musical materials and ideas (like shards of pottery); it is the interaction of these materials and the timbral world created by them that gives the music its shape and expressive characteristics.