

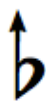
# Schrei

for a capella chamber choir

Lillie Harris

(2016)

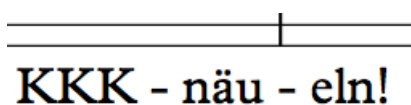
## Notation Information



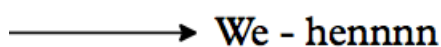
> In a couple of places, this symbol is used to denote a quarter flat (after a gliss. so the singer should just push the note a little flat)



> At measure 32, half of the voices are required to sing the suggested phrases in any order, with any number of repetitions. They should aim to use the pitches provided, however the overall shape/rhythm of the phrase should be sufficient. They can sing in S/A and T/B groups if they wish.



> Pronunciation: particularly in the louder sections, harsh consonants should be emphasised (as suggested in the written-out example on the left). Long 'kkk', 'nnn', 'ggg' etc sounds are welcome.



> At the end, all singers should slowly move from 'Wehe' to 'Wehennnnn', increasingly emphasising the 'nnn' at the end of the word, as indicated by the arrow.

## Composer's Note

'Schrei' by August Stramm really stood out to me from the selection of poems available on the From Poetry To Music website. It is very abstract, but full of emotive and rhythmic power due to having single words (or short phrases) per line.

It was very difficult to try to translate into English! Many words (such as 'sargen' and 'gräbern') are not real words, but are instead nouns turned into verbs by adding '-en' to the end, or adding extra letters. By doing this, Stramm ensures that each word can carry multiple connotations, making the poem confusing but, strangely, very emotionally clear in my opinion.

In my piece I tried to reflect the lilting rhythm of the poem in more stable sections, and the madness and chaos suggested by the words in others.

## Text (with approximate English translation)

### *Schrei*

Tage sargen	Days into coffins
Welten gräbern	Worlds into graves
Nächte ragen	Nights tower
Blute bäumen	Bloods build up
Wehe raumen alle Räume	Grief encompasses all space
Würgen	Retching
Schwingen	Swinging
Und	and
Zerschwingen	Scatter
Schwingen	Swinging
Würgen	Retching
Und	and
Zerwürgen	Butchery
Stürmen	Storm
Strömen	Surge
Wirbeln	Whirling
Ballen	Clenching
Knäueln	Into balls
Wehe Wehe	Grief grief
Wehe	Grief
Wehen	Breeze
Nichtall.	Nothing. / Oblivion.

### *August Stramm* (written in German)

August Stramm (1874-1915) was a German poet and playwright who is considered one of the first of the expressionists. He served in the German Army and was killed in action during World War I.



# Schrei

Lillie Harris

Grave (♩ = 56)

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, measures 1-6. The tempo is Grave (♩ = 56). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *ppp*, *p*, *gliss.*, and *mp*. The lyrics are: Soprano: We - he We - he; Alto: We - he, We - he Weh; Tenor: (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence); Bass: (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence).

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, measures 7-12. The tempo is Grave (♩ = 56). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, *pp*, and *gliss.*. The lyrics are: Soprano: We-he We-he We-he We-he; Alto: We - he We - he; Tenor: (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence); Bass: (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence).

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, measures 13-17. The tempo is Grave (♩ = 56). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *mf*, *cresc.*, and *accel.*. The lyrics are: Soprano: We - he We - he We - he We - he We - he; Alto: he Weh Weh Weh; Tenor: (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence); Bass: (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence) (silence).

18

S. *Weh*

A. *Weh* *get increasingly agitated*  
*Ra - gen ra - gen Ra-che*

T. *get increasingly agitated*  
*Näch-te näch-te ra - gen Näch-te Näch-te näch-ste*

B. *get increasingly agitated*  
*Näch - te näch-te ra - gen, ra - gen, näch-te,*

22 *rit.* *(♩ = 76)* *place freely*

S. *grä bern*

A. *gradually relax*  
*Näch - ste Ra-che Näch-ste ra - - gen.*

T. *gradually relax*  
*näch-te rach ra - gen, ra - - gen.*

B. *gradually relax*  
*näch - te, näch - te, Näch-ste, Weh weh*

27 *mp*

S. *grä-bern* *Weh Weh*

A. *Weh Weh We - he We - he*

T. *Weh*

B. *Weh Weh*

accel. . . . . (♩ = 160)

interject freely, any order, any number of times - increase density over time

S. 1-2

Wir - bel - n      Strö - men      Grä - bern      Zer - wür - gen

interject freely, any order, any number of times - increase density over time

A. 1-2

Wir - bel - n      Strö - men      Grä - bern      Zer - wür - gen

interject freely, any order, any number of times - increase density over time

T. 1-2

Wir - beln      Strö - men      Grä - bern      Zer - wür - gen

interject freely, any order, any number of times - increase density over time

B. 1-2

Wir - beln      Strö - men      Grä - bern      Zer - wür - gen

*cresc.*

S.

We - hen      Grä - bern      Grä - bern      We - hen

*cresc.*

A.

Grä - bern      We - hen      We - hen      We - hen

*mp* *cresc.*

T.

We - hen      Grä - bern      Zer -

*cresc.*

B.

Grä - bern      We - hen      Grä bern      We - he Zer zer

37 pitches become approximate - incoherent, babbling, intense

S. 1-2

A. 1-2

T. 1-2

B. 1-2

S.  
Wür - gen, Ra-gen, We-hen, Ta - ge, Wür - gen,

A.  
Wür - gen, Ra-gen, We-hen, Ta - ge, Wür - gen,

T.  
wür - gen, We-hen, Zer-wür - gen, We - hen, Rag,

B.  
wür-gen, Ra-gen, We-hen, Zer-wür - gen, wür-gen, Ra-gen, wür-gen,



45

S. 1-2 *ff*  
SHOUT the below words:  
KKK - näu - eln! Blute-Tage-Welten KK - näu - eln! Balle!

A. 1-2 *ff*  
SHOUT the below words:  
Ra - che! Ra - che! Raaa - gennn Gräää - bern! Nachte-

T. 1-2 *ff*  
SHOUT the below words:  
Wehe! Wehe! Wehe! Wehe! Wehe! Wehe! Tage! Blute! Blute!

B. 1-2 *ff*  
SHOUT the below words:  
KKK - näu - eln! KKK - näu - eln! Blu-ttteeeee Blu-tttee

S. *ff*  
Ra - gen, We - hen, Rag, We - - he \_\_\_\_\_ Zer-

A. *ff*  
Ra - gen, We - hen, Rag, We - - he \_\_\_\_\_ Zer-

T. *ff*  
Ra - gen, Zer - wür - gen, We - - he \_\_\_\_\_ Zer-

B. *ff*  
Ra - gen, Zer - wür - gen, We - - he \_\_\_\_\_ Zer-

52

S. 1-2 Blute! Welten! Zer - würrr - gen! Zer - würrr - gen! Blute-Tage-Welten KK - näu - eln! KK - näu - eln!

A. 1-2 Welten-Gräbern-Nachte-Welten-Gräbern! Ballen Blute Schwinggg - ennn! Schwing - en! Schwing - enn!

T. 1-2 Tage! Welten! Wehen Wehen Wehen Welten! Tage Tage Blute! KKK - näu - eln! Zerrr - würrr - genn! Wehe -

B. 1-2 Blu-ttee! Zerrr - würrr - genn! Zerrr - würrr - genn! Blute-Blute-Blute Ballen Welten Tage Tage Tage

S. *mf*  
wür - gen \_\_\_\_\_ Blu - te Zer Kkknäu - eln \_\_\_\_\_

A. *mf*  
wür - gen \_\_\_\_\_ Blu - te Zer Kkknäu - eln \_\_\_\_\_

T. *mf*  
wür - gen \_\_\_\_\_ Blu - te Zer Kkknäu - eln \_\_\_\_\_

B. *mf*  
wür - gen \_\_\_\_\_ Blu - te Zer Kkknäu - eln \_\_\_\_\_

59 Mix short and long 'Wehe!'s

S. 1-2 WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! Wehe! Wehe! wehe wehee weeeehheeeeee

A. 1-2 WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! Wehe! Wehe! wehe wehee weeeehheeeeee

T. 1-2 WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! Wehe! Wehe! wehe wehee weeeehheeeeee

B. 1-2 WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! WEHE!! Wehe! Wehe! wehe wehee weeeehheeeeee

S. *ff* We - he! We - he! We - he! We - he! We - he\_\_\_\_\_ *dim.*

A. *ff* We - he! We - he! We - he! We - he! We - he\_\_\_\_\_ *dim.*

T. *ff* We - he! We - he! We - he! We - he! We - he\_\_\_\_\_ *dim.*

B. *ff* We - he! We - he! We - he! We - he! We - he\_\_\_\_\_ *dim.*



68 *p* repeat ad lib, like at the start - interlock with other singers. fade to niente.

S. We - he \_\_\_\_\_ We - hennnn

A. *p* repeat ad lib, like at the start - interlock with other singers. fade to niente.

A. We - he \_\_\_\_\_ We - hennnn

T. *p* We - he \_\_\_\_\_ We - hennnn

B. *p* We - he \_\_\_\_\_ We - hennnn *gliss.*

