

WARUM?

SATB, DIV., A CAPPELLA

PSALM 2:1 AND 121:7
ANDREW STEFFEN



About the Work:

"Warum?" is a work about war – to be simple. Responding to the, what seems to be, never ceasing violence across the world between nations and corrupt leaders more and more of us are left asking, "why?" Why the constant need to battle with each other? Why need to violently prove our point? Why? The weight of it all sits heavily on many of our hearts. More importantly, those caught at the center of it all are innocent people – mothers, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors – are helpless through it all.

The dichotomy of texts seeks to capture both elements of these thoughts – the relentlessness of war and the helpless caught in the crossfire.

Text and Translation:

Warum toben die Heiden, und die Leute reden so vergeblich?

Why do the heathen so furiously rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing?

Der Herr behüte dich vor allem Übel, er behüte deine Seele;

The Lord will keep you safe from all evil; he will take care of your sou

Conductor and Performer Note:

This work is a lot of fun to perform, and the intricacies/difficulties of it can be deceiving. While we might stop and think that chord structures (like m.4) are complicated, what we need to be most mindful of for this work is the repetitive notes. Starting at m.5, the basses and everyone else need to ensure that sonority and brilliance take precedence over weight and character. Set the first layer in motion before adding the second – if intonation settles early on in performance, or the learning/rehearsal process, it will be difficult/impossible to recapture it. Sing through pitched consonants and stir each line to create the most effective performance possible.

The accent markings are meant to help provide landing points for the tempo (starting at m.5) to prevent any sort of 'derailment'. Pay mind to moments of homophony and how the compound rhythms in polyphony can provide stability in the 'quick' sections.

- Andrew Steffen

for the New American Voices, Z. Randall Stroope, conductor

Warum?

Psalm 2:1
Psalm 121:7

Why?

Andrew Steffen

Belligerently, freely

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

(stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp)
(stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp)
(stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp)
(stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp) Wa - rum? (stomp)

5

Rampant, charging ahead, $\text{♩} = 144$

S
A
T
B

Wa - rum to - ben ___ die Hei-den, wa - rum to - ben ___ die hei-den, wa - rum to - ben ___
Wa - rum to - ben ___ die Hei-den, wa - rum to - ben ___ die hei-den, wa - rum to - ben ___ die hei-den

9

S

f > *heavily*

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den?

A

f > *heavily*

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den?

T

rum? *mf* wailing

B

sim. die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben
sim. wa - rum to - ben die hei - den wa - rum to - ben die hei - den wa - rum to - ben die hei - den wa - rum to - ben die hei - den

13

S

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den?
Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den?

A

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den?
Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den?

T

rum?
Wa

B

die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben
die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben
die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben
die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben
wa - rum to - ben
die hei - den
wa - rum to - ben
die hei - den

17

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: die hei - den? die hei - den? die hei - den? die hei - den? Wa - rum to - ben

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: die hei - den? die hei - den? die hei - den? die hei - den? Wa - rum to - ben

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: rum? _____ Wa - - rum

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben _____ die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben wa - rum to - ben die hei - den Wa - rum

19

sub. f

20

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, **3/4**

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, **3/4**

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: to - ben die hei - den? wa - - rum, die hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, **3/4**

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: to - ben die hei - den? wa - - rum, die hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, **3/4**

23

sempre f

S Und die leu - te re - den so ver - ge - blich? Und die leu - te

A Und die leu - te re - den so ver - ge - blich? Und die leu - te

T Und die leu - te re - den so ver - ge - blich? Und die leu - te

B Und die leu - te re - den so ver - ge - blich? Und die leu - te

26

S re - den so ver - ge - blich (stomp) wa - - - rum? (stomp)

A re - den so ver - ge - blich (stomp) wa - - - rum? (stomp)

T re - den so ver - ge - blich (stomp) wa - - - rum? (stomp)

B re - den so ver - ge - blich (stomp) wa - - - rum? (stomp)

29

S

A

T

B

mp

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den,

mp

Wa - rum to - ben, Wa - rum to - ben die Hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben >

wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den,

S

A

T

B

32

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den?

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den?

wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben, Wa -

wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben, Wa - rum to - ben die Hei - den, *sim.* wa - rum to - ben

wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den,

35

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: Wa - rum, to - ben, Wa - rum, to - ben, die hei - den?, die hei - den?

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: Wa - rum, to - ben, Wa - rum, to - ben, die hei - den?, die hei - den?

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: Wa - rum, to - ben, die Hei - den? (measures 8-10)

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: die Hei - den, wa - rum to - ben, die Hei - den, wa - rum to - ben, die Hei - den, wa - rum to - ben, die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben, die hei - den, (measures 11-13)

38

Soprano (S) vocal line with lyrics: die hei - den?, die hei - den? (stomp), Und die leu - te, re - den so ver - ge - blich?

Alto (A) vocal line with lyrics: die hei - den?, die hei - den? (stomp), Und die leu - te, re - den so ver - ge - blich?

Tenor (T) vocal line with lyrics: (stomp), Und die leu - te, re - den so _____ ver - ge - blich?

Bass (B) vocal line with lyrics: die Hei - den, wa - rum to - ben, (stomp), Und die leu - te, re - den so _____ ver - ge - blich?

40 ff

42

S

A

T

B

rit.

S

A

T

B

48

Senza Mensura

Soprano (S) vocal line:

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, to - ben Der

Alto (A) vocal line:

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, to - ben

Tenor (T) vocal line:

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, to - ben

Bass (B) vocal line:

Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, to - ben

54

Gently, like a prayer, ♩=60

Soprano (S) vocal line:

Herr be - hü - te dich vor al - lem Ü - bel er be -

Alto (A) vocal line:

Der Herr be - hü - te dich, al - lem Ü - bel

Tenor (T) vocal line:

Der Herr be - hü - te dich, al - lem Ü - bel

Bass (B) vocal line:

Der Herr be - hü - te dich, al - lem Ü - bel

58

Soprano (S) vocal line:

poco rit.

A tempo

Alto (A) vocal line (measures 58-61):

mf

Tenor (T) vocal line (measures 58-61):

mf

Bass (B) vocal line (measures 58-61):

mf

Text lyrics for measures 58-61:

hü - te dei - ne See - le be - hü - te dei - ne See - le,
er be - hü - te dei - ne See - le, be hü - te dei - ne See - le,
er be - hü - te dei - ne See - le, be hü - te dei - ne See - le, vor

62

Soprano (S) vocal line (measures 62-65):

legato

Alto (A) vocal line (measures 62-65):

legato

Tenor (T) vocal line (measures 62-65):

sim.

Bass (B) vocal line (measures 62-65):

sim.

Text lyrics for measures 62-65:

be - hü - te dei - ne See - le, dei - ne See - le, See - le, See - le,
be - hü - te dei - ne See - le, dei - ne See - le, See - le, See - le,
al - lem Ü - bel dei - ne See - le, See - le, See - le, See - le
al - lem Ü - bel dei - ne See - le, See - le, See - le, See - le

A tempo I

67

Soprano (S) starts with a stomp (indicated by an 'x' and a fermata). The vocal line consists of eighth-note patterns.

Alto (A) starts with a stomp (indicated by an 'x'). The lyrics are: wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den.

Tenor (T) starts with a stomp (indicated by an 'x' at measure 8). The lyrics are: wa - rum, ___ die hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den.

Bass (B) starts with a stomp (indicated by an 'x'). The lyrics are: wa - rum, ___ die hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den.

mp

70

Soprano (S) continues with eighth-note patterns. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.

Alto (A) continues with eighth-note patterns. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.

Tenor (T) continues with eighth-note patterns. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.

Bass (B) continues with eighth-note patterns. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.

The lyrics for all parts are: wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die

73

Soprano (S) vocal line:

hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, (stomp) wa - rum? (stomp)

Alto (A) vocal line:

hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, (stomp) wa - rum? (stomp)

Tenor (T) vocal line:

hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, (stomp) wa - rum? (stomp)

Bass (B) vocal line:

hei - den, die hei - den, die hei - den, (stomp) wa - rum? (stomp)

76

Soprano (S) vocal line:

mf Wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben,
molto cresc. Wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben,

Alto (A) vocal line:

mf Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den,

Tenor (T) vocal line:

mp Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben,
mf wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben,
molto cresc. Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben,

Bass (B) vocal line:

mp Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben,
mf wa - rum to - ben, wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben,
molto cresc. Wa - rum to - ben die hei - den, wa - rum to - ben,