

Aku

Text by
Chairil Anwar

Music by
Matthew Kurniawan



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

Nicole Lamartine
Choral Series



sbmp.com



About the composer

Matthew Kurniawan (b. 2006) is an Indonesian composer and classical guitarist. He has written orchestral, choral, chamber, and solo instrumental works that have been performed internationally in the United States, Malaysia, Brazil, and Iran. For his music, Kurniawan has been awarded such honors as the 2024 Jack and Lavon Brosseau Creativity Awards for Diverse Media and the 2026 Eugene and Mary Mingle Scholarship Award for Composition at the University of Kansas.

Performance notes

Phrasing and specific musical decisions should be left to the choir's interpretation, emphasizing the individualistic nature of the text. In general, the articulations should reflect the aggressive and feral tones of the poem.

Program notes

"Aku", meaning "I" in English, is a powerful poem written in 1943 by the late Chairil Anwar, an Indonesian poet that is still recognized as a national figure to this day. The spirit of individualism and vitality is brilliantly captured in this poem, reflecting Anwar's own personality. Written during the Japanese occupation of the former Dutch East Indies, many also view this poem as patriotic in nature, calling upon the struggle for Indonesian independence.

"Aku", oleh Chairil Anwar (Bahasa Indonesia)

Kalau sampai waktuku
'Ku mau tak seorang 'kan merayu
Tidak juga kau
Tak perlu sedu sedan itu

Aku ini binatang jalang
Dari kumpulannya yang terbang
Biar peluru menembus kulitku
Aku tetap meradang menerjang

Luka dan bisa kubawa berlari
Berlari

Hingga hilang pedih perih

Dan aku akan lebih tidak peduli
Aku mau hidup seribu tahun lagi!

"I", by Chairil Anwar (English) Translation by Urip Hudiono

If my time should come
I'd like no one to entice me
Not even you
No need for those sobs and cries

I am but a wild animal
Cut from its kind
Though bullets should pierce my skin
I shall still strike and march forth

Wounds and poison shall I take aflee
Aflee

'Til the pain and pang should disappear

And I should care even less
I want to live for another thousand years!



recording and rehearsal tracks
available at sbmp.com

For the University of Kansas Glee Club

Aku

Text by Chairil Anwaar (1922-1949)

Music by Matthew Kurniawan

Freely

T
8
Ding* _____ A - ku! Ding* _____

T
8
Ding* _____ A - ku! Ding* _____

B
Ding* _____ A - ku! Ding* _____

B
Ding* _____ A - ku! Ding* _____

for rehearsal only

*Close immediately to “ng,” imitating sounds of Gamelan instruments.

**X noteheads indicate foot stomps.



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4 *f* (+foot stomps) *p* *sfz* *f* Fast ♩ = 75

A - ku! oo

A - ku! oo

A - ku! oo

A - ku! oo

Ka -

Ka - lau sam - pai wak - tu -

9 *p* *f* *energico*

Ka - lau sam - pai wak - tu - ku, 'Ku mau

p *f* *energico*

Ka - lau sam - pai wak - tu - ku, 'Ku mau

f *energico*

lau sam - pai wak - tu - ku, 'Ku mau

f *energico*

ku, 'Ku mau

13

tak se - o - rang 'kan me - ra - yu!

tak se - o - rang 'kan me - ra - yu!

tak se - o - rang 'kan me - ra - yu! *mp dolce* Ti - dak ju - ga kau, tak per -

tak se - o - rang 'kan me - ra - yu! *mp dolce* Ti - dak ju - ga kau, tak per -

16

mp dolce se - du se dan i - tu. Tak per - lu se - du se - dan i -

mp dolce tak per - lu se - du se dan i - tu. *fp* Se - du se - dan i -

fp lu se - du se dan i - tu. Tak per - lu se - du se - dan i -

fp lu se - du se dan i - tu. Se - du se - dan i -

20 *f* *energico*

tu. A - ku i - ni bi - na - tang ja - lang

f *energico*

tu. A - ku! A - ku i - ni bi - na - tang ja - lang

f *energico*

tu. A - ku! A - ku i - ni bi - na - tang ja - lang da - ri

f *energico*

tu. A - ku! A - ku i - ni bi - na - tang ja - lang da - ri

24 *p* *mp* *f*

kum - pu - lan - ya yang ter - bu - ang. Me - nem -

p *mp* *f*

kum - pu - lan - ya yang ter - bu - ang. Me - nem -

mf *f*

kum - pu - lan - ya yang ter - bu - ang. Bi - ar pe - lu - ru me - nem -

mf *f*

kum - pu - lan - ya yang ter - bu - ang. Bi - ar pe - lu - ru me - nem -

27

bus ku - lit - ku! A - ku te - tap me - ra - dang me - ner-

bus ku - lit - ku! A - ku te - tap me - ra - dang me - ner-

bus ku - lit - ku! A - ku te - tap me - ra - dang me - ner-

bus ku - lit - ku! A - ku te - tap me - ra - dang me - ner-

31

jang! Me - ner - jang! Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Lu -

jang! Me - ner - jang! Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri.

jang! Me - ner - jang! Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri.

jang! Me - ner - jang! Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Lu -

34

ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Ber - la - ri, ber - la -

mp *f* *f*

37

rit.

ri, ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, hing - ga hi -

ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, hing - ga hi -

ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, hing - ga hi -

40 *p* *rit.* *Tempo primo* *pp*

lang pe - dih pe - rih.

pe - dih pe - rih.

lang pe - dih pe - rih. Ka -

lang pe - dih pe - rih. Ka - lau sam - pai wak - tu -

44 *p* *f energico*

Ka - lau sam - pai wak - tu - ku, 'Ku mau

Ka - lau sam - pai wak - tu - ku, 'Ku mau

lau sam - pai wak - tu - ku, 'Ku mau

ku, 'Ku mau

48

tak se - o - rang 'kan me - ra - yu!

tak se - o - rang 'kan me - ra - yu!

mp dolce tak se - o - rang 'kan me - ra - yu! Ti - dak ju - ga kau, tak per -

mp dolce tak se - o - rang 'kan me - ra - yu! Ti - dak ju - ga kau, tak per -

51

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55 *f* *energico*

tu. A - ku i - ni bi - na - tang ja - lang

f *energico*

tu. A - ku! A - ku i - ni bi - na - tang ja - lang

f *energico*

tu. A - ku! A - ku i - ni bi - na - tang ja - lang da - ri

f *energico*

tu. A - ku! A - ku i - ni bi - na - tang ja - lang da - ri

59 *p* *mp* *f*

kum - pu - lan - ya yang ter - bu - ang. Me - nem -

p *mp* *f*

kum - pu - lan - ya yang ter - bu - ang. Me - nem -

mf *f*

kum - pu - lan - ya yang ter - bu - ang. Bi - ar pe - lu - ru me - nem -

mf *f*

kum - pu - lan - ya yang ter - bu - ang. Bi - ar pe - lu - ru me - nem -

62

bus ku - lit - ku! A - ku te - tap me - ra - dang me - ner-

bus ku - lit - ku! A - ku te - tap me - ra - dang me - ner-

bus ku - lit - ku! A - ku te - tap me - ra - dang me - ner-

bus ku - lit - ku! A - ku te - tap me - ra - dang me - ner-

66

jang! Me - ner - jang! Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Lu -

jang! Me - ner - jang! Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri.

jang! Me - ner - jang! Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri.

jang! Me - ner - jang! Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Lu -

69 *mp* *f*

ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Ber - la - ri, ber - la -

mp *f*

Lu - ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Ber - la - ri,

mp *f*

Lu - ka dan bi sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Ber - la - ri,

mp *f*

ka dan bi - sa ku - ba - wa ber - la - ri. Ber - la - ri, ber - la -

72 *p* *molto allargando*

ri, ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, dan a - ku a - kan le -

p

ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, dan a - ku a - kan le -

p

ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, dan a - ku a - kan le -

p

ri, ber - la - ri, ber - la - ri, dan a - ku a - kan le -

76 *ff* **a tempo**

8 bih ti - dak pe - du - li, A - ku,

8 bih ti - dak pe - du - li, A - ku, A -

8 bih ti - dak pe - du - li, A - ku, A - ku!

8 bih ti - dak pe - du - li, A - ku, A - ku!

sfz *ff* *sfz*

80 *sfz* *f* **accel., molto risoluto** *fff* (+foot stomp)

8 A - ku! ma - u hi - dup se - ri - bu ta - hun la - gi!

sfz *f* *fff* (+foot stomp)

8 ku! ma - u hi - dup se - ri - bu ta - hun la - gi!

f *fff* (+foot stomp)

ma - u hi - dup se - ri - bu ta - hun la - gi!

f *fff* (+foot stomp)

ma - u hi - dup se - ri - bu ta - hun la - gi!

Bahasa Indonesia Pronunciation Guide

Vowels

A = Pronounced as "Ah (a)" as in father
E = Pronounced as "Uh (ə)" as in about*
I = Pronounced as "Ee (i)" as in seen
O = Pronounced as "O (o)" as in sole
U = Pronounced as "Oo (u)" as in tool

Consonants

Consonants in Bahasa Indonesia are pronounced very similarly as in English, and are spoken consistently most of the time.

- Some specific notes:

G (g) = Always pronounced as in gain

NG (ŋ) = Always pronounced as in feeling

R (r) = Always pronounced and rolled as in the Spanish río

K (ʔ) = Pronounced as glottal stops at the end of words (eg.: Tak)

- Apostrophes in the front of certain words (eg. 'ku) are not special dialect symbols**, and so should be pronounced normally (as if without the apostrophe).

**Although the letter E can be pronounced in different ways in Bahasa Indonesia this text coincidentally only uses words that pronounce E as "Uh"*

***The apostrophes denote that the words are in their abbreviated forms (eg. 'ku is the abbreviated form of the word aku)*

IPA Transliteration

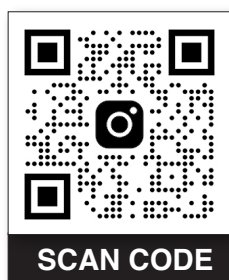
kalau sampai waktuku
ku mau taʔ səoraŋ kan məraju
tidaʔ dʒuga kau
taʔ pərlu sədu sədan itu

aku ini binatang dʒalaŋ
dari kumpulan jaŋ tərbuana
biar pəluru mənəmbus kulitku
aku tətəp məradaŋ mənərdʒaŋ

luka dan bisa kubawa bərlari
bərlari

hinga hilaŋ pədih pərih

dan aku akan ləbih tidaʔ
pəduli aku mau hidup səribu tahun lagi



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