

## 2. Child's Lament

Euripides, *Alcestis*, lines 394–415. First produced in Athens in 438 BCE. Set to music by Armand D'Angour and Barnaby Brown for performances at Bradfield College, UK, 22–27 June 2019

Two sounds exist in French and German but not in English:

ē = les, mes, c'est, c'était; zehn, lederhosen, wie geht's? | ü = tu, sur, plus; fünf, über, tschüß

The Dochmiac bars of  $\frac{8}{8}$  are always subdivided  $\frac{\triangle}{3}$   $\frac{\square}{2}$   $\frac{\triangle}{3}$

**Strophe** (extremely agitated and distressed)

CHILD

6 I-aw moi tük-has. Mai-a dē ka-taw be-ba-ken ou-ket' es-

10 tin, aw pa-ter, hüp' ha - li-aw, pro-li-pou-sa d'e-mon bi-on awr-p-ha-

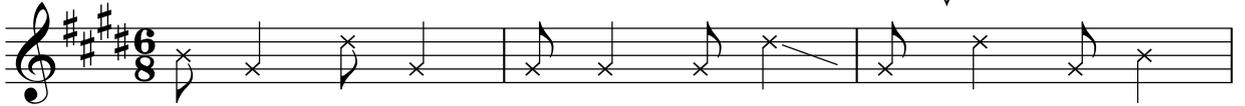
14 ni-sen tla-mawn. I - de gar i-de blep-ha-ra kai pa-ra-to-nous khe-

18 ras. Hü-pa-kou-son a-kou - son, aw ma-ter, an - ti-az-daw.

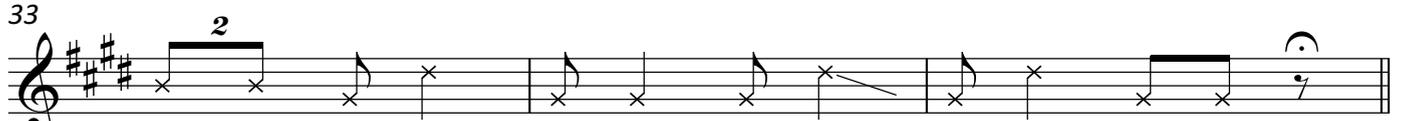
22 E - gaw, s'e-gaw, ma - ter, ma - ter, ho sos po-ti

26 soi - si pit-nawn ka-lou-mai sto-ma-sin ne-os - sos.

**Tempo rubato**30 *Declaimed, allowing the beats to have dramatically different durations.*

ADMETUS 

Tēn ou klü - ou - san oud' ho - raw - san; hawst' e - gaw

33 

kai sp-haw ba - rei - a sump - ho - rai pep - lēg - met - ha.

**Antistrophe**

CHILD 

41 

Ne-os e-gaw, pa-ter, lei-po-mai p-hi-las mo-nos-to-los te mat-

45 

ros; aw skhet-li-a dē pat-hawn, e-gaw erg' ha sü sün-ka-si moi sü-

49 

net-las kou-ra. me-le-a me-le' e-pat-hon haws e-pat-hon aw pa-

53 

ter; a-no-nat' a-no-nat' e-nümp-heu-sas ou - de gē-raws

57 

e-bas te-los sün tad-e ept - hi-to gar pa-ros.

61 

Oik-ho-me-nas de sou, ma-ter, o-law-len oi - kos.

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**CHILD**

I-aw moi tükhas.

*Alas, I am so unlucky.*

Maia dē kataw

*Mummy has gone*

bebaken ouket' estin,

*below – she is no more,*

aw pater, hüp' haliaw,

*O father, under the sun.*

prolipousa d'emon

*By leaving my*

bion awrp-hanisen tla-mawn.

*life she has made me a miserable orphan.*

Ide gar ide blep-hara

*Look, look here: her eyelids*

kai paratonous kheras.

*and her hands are limp.*

Hüpakouson akouson,

*Listen to me! Listen,*

aw mater, antiazdaw.

*O mother, I beg you.*

Egaw, s' egaw, mater,

*I, it is I – mother,*

mater, ho sos poti

*mother! – your child*

soisi pitnawn kaloumai

*who is leaning over your*

stomasin neossos.

*face, your little boy.*

**ADMETUS**

Tēn ou klüousan oud' horawsan; hawst' egaw  
*She neither hears nor sees. So both I*

kai sp-haw bareia sump-horai peplēgmet-ha.  
*and you are stricken by this heavy catastrophe.*

**CHILD**

Neos egaw, pater,  
*I am just a boy, father,*

leipomai p-hilas  
*abandoned by my dear*

monostolos te matros;  
*mother, left alone;*

aw skhetlia dē pat-hawn  
*oh, terrible things I am suffering,*

egaw erg' ha sü sünkasi  
*sufferings which you share*

moi sünetlas koura.  
*with me, sister.*

Melea mele' epat-hon  
*Unhappy, unhappy is my lot,*

haws epat-hon aw pater;  
*my lot, father;*

anonat' anonat'  
*in vain, in vain*

enümp-heusas oude gēraws  
*you married and never into old age*

ebas telos sün tade:  
*grew with her:*

ept-hito gar paros.  
*she died too soon.*

Oikhomenas de sou,  
*Your leaving us,*

mater, olawlen oikos.  
*mother, has destroyed our family.*

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*Euripides, Alcestis, lines 394–415, ed. David Kovacs (1994)*  
<http://data.perseus.org/texts/urn:cts:greekLit:tlg0006.tlg002>

*Font: Biblical Uncial, based on Codex Bezae Cantabrigiensis (5th century CE)*  
<http://guindo.pntic.mec.es/~jmag0042/palegreek.html>

*Rough breathing marks: ῥ (first half of the letter Η).*  
*Smooth breathing marks removed, line breaks revised,*  
*and βλέφαρον revised to βλέφαρα (line 397).*

**ΠΑΪΣ**

ΙΩ ΜΟΙ ΤΥΧΑΣ.  
ΜΑΪΑ ΔΗ ΚΑΤΩ  
ΒΕΒΑΚΕΝ, ΟΥΚΕΤ' ΕΣΤΙΝ,

Ω ΠΑΤΕΡ, ῥΦ' ἄλιω,  
ΠΡΟΛΙΠΟΥΣΑ Δ' ΕΜΟΝ  
ΒΙΟΝ ΩΡΦΑΝΙΣΕΝ  
ΤΛΑΜΩΝ.

ΙΔΕ ΓΑΡ ΙΔΕ ΒΛΕΦΑΡΑ  
ΚΑΙ ΠΑΡΑΤΟΝΟΥΣ ΧΕΡΑΣ.  
ῥΠΑΚΟΥΣΟΝ ἄκουσον,  
Ω ΜᾶΤΕΡ, ἀντιάζω.

ΕΓΩ Σ' ΕΓΩ, ΜᾶΤΕΡ,  
ΜᾶΤΕΡ, ὃ σὸς ποτὶ  
σοῖσι πίτνων καλοῦ-  
μαι στόμασιν νεοσσός.

## ἌΔΜΗΤΟΣ

ΤΗΝ ΟΥ ΚΛΎΟΥΣΑΝ ΟΥΔ' ὄρῶσαν:  
ὥστ' ἐγὼ  
καὶ σφῶν βαρεῖα σὺμφορᾶ πεπλήγμεθα.

## ΠΑΪΣ

ΝΕΟΣ ΕΓΩ, ΠΑΤΕΡ,  
ΛΕΪΠΟΜΑΙ ΦΪΛΑΣ  
ΜΟΝΌΣΤΟΛΌΣ ΤΕ ΜΑΤΡΌΣ:

ὦ σκέτλια δὴ παθῶν  
ἐγὼ ἐργ' ἄ σὺ σὺγ-  
κασί μοι σὺνέτλας  
κόρυρα.

[Μέλεα μέλε' ἔπαθον  
ὥς ἔπαθον] ὦ πάτερ,  
ἀνόνατ' ἀνόνατ'  
ἐνύμφευσας οὐδέ γήρως

έβας τέλος σὺν τᾶδ':  
έφθιτο γὰρ πάρος:  
οιχομένηας δέ σοῦ,  
μᾶτερ, ὀλωλεν οἶκος.

12 missing syllables supplemented

by Armand D'Angour