

# Siyahamba

## Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

#### Also available:

Three-part Mixed (15/3665H)

Downloadable Accompaniment MP3 (e99/4254H)



#### NOTES FROM THE ARRANGER

*Siyahamba* is a Zulu folk song from South Africa, sung by choirs throughout the continent. I heard it performed by a school choir in Kenya (East Africa) a few years ago. This arrangement for TBB endeavors to achieve the sound of these "real" African choirs. After three trips to Eastern, Western, and Southern Africa, working with choirs there, I have grown to love these authentic choral works.

In pieces like this, the harmonies are close together, often interspersed with overriding counter melodies. I chose to start with the theme, sung slowly and freely, then change to a quicker tempo, adding the djembe (conga drums) accompaniment that can be played as written or embellished in this authentic style.

All vowels should be sung as you would in Latin pronunciation:

$$a = aw$$

$$e = eh$$

$$ee = ee \text{ (with slight oo on the lips)}$$

$$o = oh$$

$$u = oo$$

Continue this style when you sing the English translation. For example, the word "God" would be pronounced "Gawd." Singers in Eastern and Southern Africa sing with very tall vowels and crisp consonants.

I would also suggest that you incorporate movement after learning the piece for performance. Simple swaying or stepping right, then left, on beats 1 and 3, is typical in authentic performances of these types of pieces. I encourage you to watch a few YouTube performances by African choirs for more assistance with this style and movement.

I hope you enjoy singing this "real" Zulu folk song.

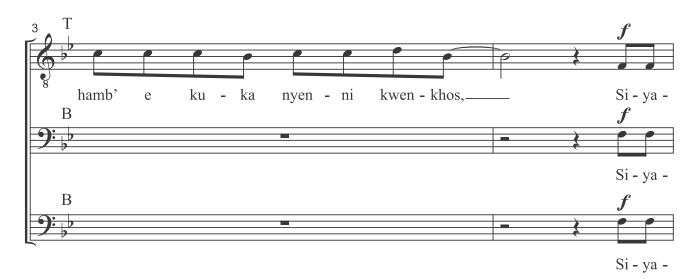
- Russell Robinson

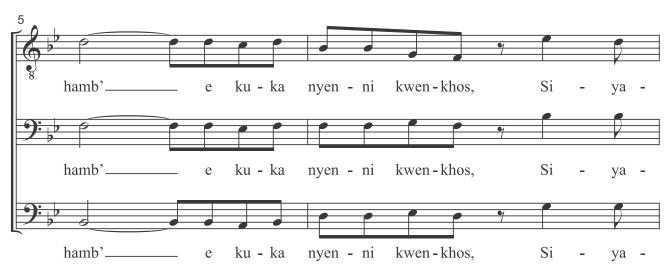
### Siyahamba

TBB, a cappella\* with Djembe or Conga Drums\*\*

Traditional Zulu Song







Duration: approx. 2:30

- \*Also available: Three-part Mixed (15/3665H).
- \*\*Drum part is available as a free download. Visit www.lorenz.com, search for "15/3797H", and click on the item image.

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