

# *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika!* Lord, Bless Africa!

July 3—The Schiller Institute's June 24 conference in Berlin was blessed with the performance of a richly polyphonic setting—by Schiller Institute member Benjamin Lylloff—of the most famous hymn in Africa, *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* (Lord, Bless Africa). The video of this premiere performance of the setting, with Lylloff conducting, may be viewed [here](#). Composed in 1897 by Enoch Mankayi Sontonga (ca. 1873-1905), a school teacher near Johannesburg, it became a song of defiance against colonial rule across Africa. Today it is the national anthem of Tanzania in a Swahili translation. In South Africa, it is conjoined with the Afrikaans anthem, *Die Stem van Suid Afrika* (The Call of South Africa), to form the national anthem.

Lylloff drew his inspiration from the choral setting by Australian musician and musicologist, Karl Aloritias, who had also [established the text](#) in consultation with a researcher in South Africa whose parents had fought and died in the liberation struggle. The text—which begins in isiXhosa, then transitions to isiZulu and then to Sesotho—is provided here with an English translation, followed by the full score.

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika  
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo  
Yizwa imithandazo yethu  
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo

Lord, bless Africa  
May her spirit rise high up  
Hear thou our prayers  
Lord bless us, Lord bless us

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika  
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo  
Yizwa imithandazo yethu  
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo

Lord, bless Africa  
May her spirit rise high up  
Hear thou our prayers  
Lord bless us, your family.

Woza Moya (woza, woza Moya)  
Woza Moya (woza, woza Moya)  
Woza Moya, oyingcwele  
Usikelele thina lusapho lwayo

Descend, O Spirit  
Descend, O Spirit  
Descend, O Holy Spirit  
Lord bless us, your family.

Morena boloka sechaba sa heso  
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho  
Morena boloka sechaba sa heso  
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho

Lord, save our nation  
Stop wars and suffering.  
Lord save our nation  
Stop wars and suffering.

O se boloke, o se boloke  
O se boloke, morena se boloke  
Sechaba sa heso, sechaba sa Afrika  
Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika

Lord, Protect our nation  
Lord, save our nation  
Protect the nation of Africa  
Lord bless Africa.

# Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika

*Enoch Mankayi Sontonga - 1897*

*Setting 2017: Benjamin Lylloff  
from orig. arr. by Karl Aloritias*

$\text{♩} = 100$   
Proposed tempo

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Nko-si si-ke-lel' i - Af-ri-ka, Af-ri-ka.

Nko-si si-ke-lel' i - Af-ri-ka. Ma-lu-pha-kan-yis-w'u - pon do-lwa - yo.

Bass melody meas. 1-10 in foreground

5

Rit. A tempo

Sopr.

Alto

Ten.

Bass

Yi - zwa i - mith - an da - zo ye - thu. Nko -

Yi - zwa i - mith - an - da - zo ye - thu. Nko - si si - ke - le -

lel' i - Af - ri - ka - ye - thu. Nko - si

Yi - zwa i - mith - an - da - zo - ye - thu. Nko - si si - ke - le - la,

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Soprano: si si-ke-le - la, thi - na lu - sa - pho lwa-yo. Nko-si si-ke-lel' i -

Alto: la, thi - -na lu-sa-pho lwa - yo. Nko-si si-ke-lel' i -

Tenor: si-ke-le - la, thi - -na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo. Nko-si si-ke-lel' i -

Bass: thi - na lu - sa-pho lwa - yo lwa-yo. Nko-si si-ke-lel' i -

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Soprano: Af - ri - ka. Ma-lu-pha-kan-yis w'u - phon-do lwa-yo. Yi-swa i - mith-an - da -

Alto: Af - ri - ka. Ma-lu-pha-kan-yis pha-kan-yis w'u - phon-do lwa-yo. Yi swa i - mith-an - da -

Tenor: Af - ri - ka. Ma-lu-pha-kan-yis w'u - phon-do lwa-yo. Yi swa i - mith-an - da -

Bass: Af - ri - ka. Ma-lu-pha-kan-yis w'u - phon-do lwa-yo. Yi-swa i - mith-an - da -

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Sopr. zo\_\_ ye - thu. Nko - si si - ke - le - la, thi - na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo.

Alto zo\_\_ ye - thu. Nko - si si - ke - le - la, thi - na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo, lu -

Ten. zo ye - thu. Nko - si si - ke - le - la, thi - na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo, lu -

Bass zo ye - thu. Nko' si - ke le - - - la, thi - na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo.

22

Sopr. Wo - za Mo - ya, Wo - za. Wo - za Mo - ya,

Alto sa - pho lwa - yo. Si - ke - le - le u - si - si - ke - le - le. Si - ke - le - le u - si -

Ten. sa - pho lwa - yo. Si - ke - le - le u - si - si - ke - le - le. Si - ke - le - le u - si -

Bass

Wo - za Mo - ya Wo - za Mo - ya

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Sopr. Wo - za. Wo - za Mo - ya Wo - za Mo - ya

Alto si - ke - lel'. Si - ke - le - le u - si si - ke - le - le. Si - ke - le - le u - si -

Ten. si - ke - lel'. Si - ke - le - le u - si si - ke - le - le. Si - ke - le - le u - si -

Bass

Wo - za Mo - ya, Wo - za. Wo - za Mo - ya,

31

Sopr. Wo - za, Wo - za Mo - ya O - ying - cwe - le. U - si - si - ke - le - le thi -

Alto si - ke - lel'. Wo - za Mo - ya O - ying - cwe - le. U - si - si - ke - le - le thi -

Ten. si - ke - lel'. Wo - za Mo - ya O - ying - cwe - le. U - si - si - ke - le - le thi -

Bass

wo - za. Wo - za Mo - ya, O - ying - cwe - le. U - si - ke - le - - - le thi -

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Sopr. na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo. Mmm

Alto na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo. Mmm

Ten. na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo. Mo-re - na bo - lo - ka se - cha - ba sa he - so

Bass na lu - sa - pho lwa - yo. Mmm

41

Sopr. Solo Dint - wa la mat - shwen - ye - ho. Tutti Mo - re - na bo - lo - ka se - cha - ba sa he - so. O

Alto Dint - wa la mat - shwen - ye - ho. Mo - re - na bo - lo - ka se - cha - ba sa he - so. O

Ten. O fed - is - e dint - wa la mat - shwen - ye - ho. Tutti Mo - re - na bo - lo - ka se - cha - ba sa he - so. O

Bass Mo - re - na bo - lo - ka se - cha - ba sa he - so. O

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45

Sopr.  
fed-is-e dint-wa la mat-shwen-ye ho. O se bo lo - ke, o se bo-lo-ke. O se bo

Alto  
fed-is-e dint-wa la mat-shwen-ye ho. O se bo-lo', se bo-lo-ke.

Ten.  
fed-is-e dint-wa la mat-shwen-ye ho. O se bo-lo - ke, se bo-lo-ke. O

Bass  
fed-is-e dint-wa la mat-shwen-ye ho. O se bo-lo - ke, se bo-lo-ke.

49

Sopr.  
lo ke, mo-re-na se bo-lo-ke Se - cha-ba sa he - so. Se - cha-ba sa

Alto  
O se bo-lo-ke Se - cha-ba sa he-so. Se - cha - ba sa

Ten.  
se bo-lo-ke, o se bo-lo-ke Se - cha-ba sa he - so. Se - cha-ba sa

Bass  
O se bo-lo-ke, mo-re - na se bo-lo-ke. Se - cha-ba sa he - so. Se - cha-ba sa

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Sopr. Af-ri - ka. O se bo - lo ke, o se bo-lo ke. O se bo - lo-ke, mo-re-na

Alto Af - ri - ka. O se-bo - lo', se-bo-lo-ke. O

Ten. Af - ri - ka. O se bo-lo - ke, se bo-lo-ke. O se bo-lo-ke, o

Bass Af - ri - ka. O se bo-lo - ke, se bo-lo-ke. O se bo-lo-ke, mo-re-

58

Sopr. se bo-lo-ke. Se - cha-ba sa he - so. Se - cha-ba sa Af - ri - ka,

Alto se bo-lo-ke. Se - cha-ba sa he-so. Se - cha - ba sa Af - ri', Af - ri -

Ten. se bo-lo-ke. Se - cha-ba sa he - so. Se - cha-ba sa Af - ri - ka,

Bass na se bo-lo-ke. Se - cha-ba sa he - so. Se - cha-ba sa Af - ri', Af - ri -



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Accel. Rit. A tempo Rit.

Sopr. Af - ri - ka, Af - ri - ka, Af - ri - ka.

Alto ka, Af - ri - ka, Af ri ka.

Ten. Af - ri - ka, Af - ri - ka, Af - ri - ka. Nko-si si-ke - lel' i - Af - ri -

Bass ka, Af - ri', Af - ri - ka, Af ri - ka. Nko-si si-ke-lel' i - Af - ri -

*p*

68

A tempo e crescendo Rit.

Sopr. Nko-si si-ke-lel' i - Af - ri ka.

Alto Nko-si si-ke-lel' i - Af - ri'. Nko-si si-ke - lel' i', si-ke-lel' i Af - ri - ka.

Ten. ka. Nko-si si-ke-lel' i - Af - ri - ka, i - Af - ri - ka.

Bass ka. Nko-si si-ke - lel' i - Af - ri - ka, si-ke - lel' i - Af - ri - ka.

*(Score made with StaffPad)*