

Siyahamba

written by **Andries Van Tonder**
Arranged/Edited by **Adam Paltrowitz**

Teaching & Programming Notes

Sung in Zulu & English

Zulu: Siyahamb' ekukhanyeni kwenkos'
Pronounced: See-yah-hamb' eh-koo-kah-nyeh-nee kwehn-kohs'
See-yah-hahm-bah

English: We are marching in the light of God

Here are some suggestions that add authenticity, spirit, and bring your performance to life.

1. I strongly recommend teaching this piece by rote; use the sheet music solely as a conductor's guide.
2. Teach your singers while they are standing, and encourage “full body” singing.
3. Teach everyone the melody first, breaking down the words as listed above. After the melody is sung with musicality and depth, add one additional harmony. Once harmony is learned, split group between the two parts, and then add additional harmony.
4. Use percussion in an improvisory way; piano can be used as well. Add and subtract instruments throughout the performance.
5. Use the two verses as a guide, but not as a set structure. You may choose to sing the verses in varied ways. Here are some examples/ideas:
 - a) Verse 1 in Zulu, Verse 2 in English, Verse 3 with a hum, Verse 4 in Zulu with clapping, Verse 5 in English with clapping
 - b) Sing the Zulu and English at the same time after both verses have been sung separately
 - c) Instead of following form, repeat the same line multiple times. An example would be repeating the last line 4 times in a row, modifying dynamics or adding solos.

This “folk” piece belongs to the people of South Africa. It is part of their culture, their struggle, and their unity. There have been many westerners who have tried to put this “live” work onto manuscript. Since the piece has been passed on from generation to generation, it is not static; notes, rhythms, and exactness are less important than singing with truth passion, spirit, joy, determination, and unity. This, above all else, is what makes Siyahamba a special piece, and one worth sharing. Please enjoy and share with the world!