About the Work

Performed for many generations, Tshotsholoza is often referred as the "unofficial" anthem of South Africa. This song of freedom was sung by the ancient miners who toiled in the South African diamond and gold mines, and by those celebrating Nelson Mandela's release from prison. Furthermore, it was included in the soundtrack from the Oscar-nominated movie "Invictus," and most recently, it served as South Africa's 'battle-call' at the 2010 World Cup. With this in mind, Tshotsholoza should be performed with immense feeling; yet, should also convey a sense of hope. The work can be performed very effectively as a processional by utilizing a "step right, touch left; step left, touch right" pattern. Included in the score are suggested rhythmic patterns for the congas and djembe. Encourage your drummers to be creative; however, they must always keep a steady pulse.

This edition is an adaptation of the 2005 TTBB version. The text is a mixture of the Zulu and Ndebele dialects and basically means: "Go forward, go forward on those mountains; the train is coming from South Africa. You are running away on those mountains; the train is coming from South Africa." A pronunciation guide is as follows:

Tshotsholoza = SHOH-shoh-loh-zah (silent "t")
Ku lezontaba = Koo leh-zohn-TAH-bah
Stimela siphum'e South Afrika = STEE-meh-lah (close to "m") see-POO-meh South AH-free-kah
Wen' uyabalekha = WHEN-you yah-bah-LEH-gah ("k" pronounced like "g" as in gun)

Jeffery Ames (b. 1969) serves as Director of Choral Activities at Belmont University. Prior appointments include Assistant Director of Choral Activities at Baylor University and Choral Director at Edgewater High School and Lincoln High School in Florida. As a choral clinician, Dr. Ames has conducted senior and junior high school mixed and male choirs at the state and divisional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educator's National Conference, including the inaugural Florida Male All-State Chorus, and at Carnegie Hall with the National Youth Choir. He has performed and guest conducted internationally in the countries of Italy and Costa Rica.

With a growing reputation as a distinguished and well-respected composer and arranger, Dr. Ames' music has been premiered by the Florida Music Educators Association, the Florida American Choral Directors Association, the Southern Division of ACDA, the National ACDA Conferences in Los Angeles and Miami, and most recently heard on 2009 Christmas at Belmont, which aired on National Public Television.

Professor Ames holds the Ph.D. in Choral Conducting/Choral Music Education and a Master of Choral Music Education degree from The Florida State University, and a Bachelor of Music degree, with a double major in Vocal Performance and Piano Accompanying, from James Madison University. He holds the honor of being the first recipient of the National ACDA James Mulholland Choral Music Fellowship.

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Walton Music Corporation

Gunilla Luboff, Publisher
TSHOTSHOLOZA

Tenor Solo, SATB divisi, Congas & Djembe

Traditional South African
Adapted for SATB by Jeffery L. Ames

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Tsho-tsho-lo-za!

Sti-mela-si-phu-m'e South Afrika.

Sti-mela-si-phu-m'e South Afrika.

Sti-mela-si-phu-m'e South Afrika.

Sti-mela-si-phu-m'e South Afrika.
3 times total
1st time p, 2nd time mf, 3rd time f

Solo

Sti-me-la-sti-phu-m’e South Afri-ka, Sti-me-la-sti-phu-m’e South Afri-ka,

Sti-me-la-sti-phu-m’e South Afri-ka  Sti-me-la-sti-phu-m’e South Afri-ka

Sti-me-la-sti-phu-m’e South Afri-ka  Sti-me-la-sti-phu-m’e South Afri-ka

Sti-me-la-sti-phu-m’e South Afri-ka  Sti-me-la-sti-phu-m’e South Afri-ka

(bom)  (bom)  Ku le  (bom)  (bom)  Ku le