

Ba Bethandaza

Trad. Zulu, transcribed by Lucy Hollins & Suzzie Vango

Before teaching a song in a language that isn't your own, it's always worth asking whether it's the native language of anyone in the room. Some years ago, this happened when teaching *Ba Bethandaza* and the answer was YES! This was wonderful news, since a translation had been hard to come by. The words of this traditional South African song are written in Zulu and translate as: 'We are as we are because of prayer. The Mothers of yesteryear used to pray'.

The middle part takes the melody in this song, and it's well worth teaching it to everyone first, since each of the lines has identical words and rhythms. Encourage an energised feel and – most importantly – movement from the very start. You can repeat the song as many times as you like, layering it up in different ways, adding solos, and experimenting with dynamics.

The pronunciation is largely as written, but watch out for 'nge', which is pronounced 'nye', and 'be-than-da-za', which is pronounced 'bay-tan-da-za'.

$\text{♩} = \text{c.}104$

Si nje nje_ nje_ nge-mi than - da - zo, Si nje nje_ nje_ nge-mi than - da - zo, nge-mi

Si nje nje_ nje_ nge-mi than-da - zo, Si nje nje_ nje_ nge-mi than-da - zo, nge-mi

Si nje nje_ nje_ nge-mi than-da - zo, Si nje nje_ nje_ nge-mi than-da - zo, nge-mi

than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo. **Fine.** Woah!

than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo. Woah!

than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo, nge-mi than - da - zo. Woah!

ma - ma ba ku - da - la ba be - than - da - za, Woah ma - ma ba ku - da - la ba be - than - da - za, ba be

ma - ma ba ku - da - la ba be - than - da - za, Woah ma - ma ba ku - da - la ba be - than - da - za, ba be

ma - ma ba ku - da - la ba be - than - da - za, Woah ma - ma ba ku - da - la ba be - than - da - za, ba be

D.S. al Fine

than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, Si

than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, Si

than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, ba be - than - da - za, Si

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