

A South African Trilogy

Notes and Performance Suggestions

The three pieces which are included in this arrangement can be found in *Freedom Is Coming*, a collection of "Songs of Protest and Praise from South Africa," collected and edited by Anders Nyberg (Utryck, 1984 - Walton Music Corp.). Arranged here as a medley, they become a substantial, and yet very accessible offering for the average choir. While each of the songs may be performed on its own, together they make a powerful statement and show a pleasing contrast of styles.

In performance it is certainly not necessary, and often not desirable, to sing all verses that are supplied. These have been included to offer a variety of choices for varied situations.

While the entire work may be performed in the original Nguni language, it seems that the simple message can be transmitted with little difficulty in almost any language, and it is the intent of the arranger that performers feel free to do so, providing the languages as desired.

Pronunciation

The vowel sounds can be thought of as following the rules of Romantic vowels for the most part. The consonants are as in English with the following exceptions:

"th" – like a "t", as in "talk", followed by an "h", as in "hat".

"ngq" – in "siyangqongqoza" (we are knocking) is a "clucking" sound obtained by letting the tongue snap away from the hard palate.

The word "island", having been borrowed from English, may be pronounced as it is in English.

"Kawu-the-the" is a three syllable word.

Close immediately to the "m" of "siyahamba" – sustaining it through the swell.

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