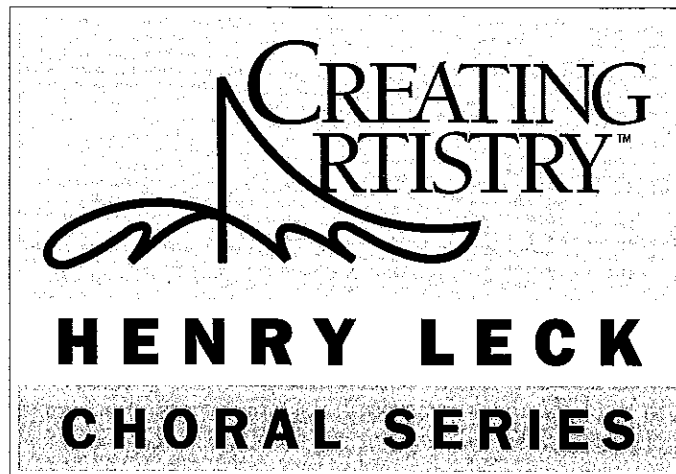


Amavolovolo

Traditional Zulu Dowry Song

Arranged by **Rudolf de Beer**

Available for SATB and SSAA



Amavolovolo

This song was sung in pre-democratic South Africa and tells the story of the people who were afraid to go to Kwa-Mashu, the township outside Durban in KwaZulu-Natal, because there was so much violence. *Amavolovo* is a direct mutation of the English word *revolver*. Nowadays, with the violence much less, the song is still sung in many communities at parties and weddings, as well as by many choirs in South Africa.

MOVEMENT:

The movements can be alternated. Following is a suggested dance, as done by the Drakensberg Boys' Choir while the arranger worked there as conductor.

Start moves only when singing starts – not together with percussion. Choir should be totally still until moves and singing start together.

Verse 1:

Foot steps:

Beats 1 & 3 = right foot

lift right foot on upbeat before singing beat 1

Beats 2 & 4 = left foot

right foot alternates to step a little forward (beat 1) and a little backward (beat 2), while left foot steps in one place

Note these forward and backward moves are very small, and the movement should be felt in the hips more than in the legs.

Hands/ Arms (hands should form relaxed fists):

Beats 1 & 3

fists at hip level, next to body

Beats 2 & 4

move fists so they are next to each other in front of body a forearm's distance away at chest height, lifting hands on upbeat before singing beat 1

Verse 2:

Foot steps: *same as verse 1*

Hands/ Arms:

separate fists with second finger pointing forward and forearms parallel to each other and to ground; hand flicking from right on beats 1 & 3 and to left on beats 2 & 4

Verse 3:

Foot steps: *same as verses 1 & 2*

Hands/ Arms (hands should form relaxed fists):

fists move in a circular motion, parallel to the ground and counterclockwise, hands farthest from chest on beats 1 & 3, and closest to chest on beats 2 & 4

Chorus (all times):

Hands hang next to body with arms parallel to the ground

bars 11 & 15 – left foot still, while right foot moves as follows:

beat 1: heel touches ground straight in front of body

beat 2: toe touches ground to right front of body

beat 3: toe touches ground at right of body

bars 12 & 16 – the same as above, with feet changing to let left foot do what right foot did and vice versa

bars 13 & 17 – turn around (counterclockwise) starting with right foot on beat 1, left foot beat 2, right foot beat 3, and left foot beat 4, while left fist hangs next to left hip and right hand points up in the air, circling the fists counterclockwise at head height with 2nd finger pointing upwards

bars 14 & 18 – as bar 13

For SATB* a cappella with Optional Percussion

Traditional Zulu Dowry Song

Lively (♩ = ca. 116)

f 3

Soprano
Alto

Nge - ke si - ye le la - Kwa -

Tenor
Bass

Ma - shu, — si - sa - ba ma - vo - lo - vo - lo we

ma, nge - ke si - ye le la - Kwa

Ma - shu — si - sa - ba ma - vo - lo - vo - lo we

**DO NOT
PHOTOCOPY** 

CHORUS

11

Unis. si - sa - ba ma - vo - lo - vo - lo we

ma, si - sa - ba ma - lo - lo - vo

10

ma si - sa - ba ma - vo - lo - vo - lo we

vo - lo - vo vo - lo - vo

12

ma, si - sa - ba ma - vo - lo - vo - lo we

vo - lo - vo vo - lo - vo

14

ma si - sa - ba ma - vo - lo - vo - lo we

vo - lo - vo vo - lo - vo

16

1, 2 ma Nge - ke 3 ma rit. lo we ma!

vo - lo - vo Nge - ke vo - lo - vo - lo we ma!

18 vo - lo - vo