arr. Kirchner, WANA BAKA

TTTBBB
a cappella
duration: 3:00

145512

Kenyan Folk Song

arranged by
Shawn L. Kirchner

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About the arranger

Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970) is a composer, singer, and pianist. His choral compositions and arrangements are performed throughout the United States and abroad. He maintains an active performing schedule as a member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and has also sung with Chicago Choral Artists, the Rockefeller Chapel Choir, the Oriana Singers, and the Berkshire Bach Society. His accomplishments as a pianist have included work with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and an association with the Lyric Opera's Center for American Artists in Chicago. In 2004, he served as music director/pianist for "Enter the Light of Life," a Christmas Eve special that was broadcast nationally on CBS. Raised with his triplet brother and sister in Iowa, Shawn received his undergraduate degree in Peace Studies from Manchester College (IN) and his master's degree in choral conducting from the University of Iowa. He has a special interest in American and international folk music, and also enjoys a budding interest in bluegrass, country, and jazz song writing.

Visit www.sbmp.com to see and hear additional compositions by Shawn Kirchner. And, to learn more about Shawn, visit ShawnKirchner.com.

About the song

Wana Baraka is a popular Kenyan religious song. The arranger learned the song through a delegation of Kenyans who participated in the 1994 Agricultural Missions International Consultation in Sogakope, Ghana. The song has been arranged to express the quality of joy and improvisation that comes with spontaneous music-making—as if the building excitement of the music inspires singers to "take off" on their own, enriching the texture with additional harmony parts and descants.

Word-for-word text translation of the Swahili

Wana baraka wale waombao;
They have blessings, those who pray;

Yesu mwenyewe alisema. Alleluya!
Jesus himself said so. Alleluia!

Wana amani
They have peace

Wana furaha
They have joy

Wana uzima
They have well-being.

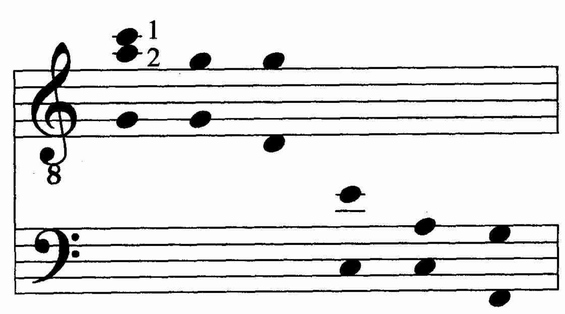
Pronunciation

Each vowel is roughly equivalent to Latin pronunciation and is heard distinctly (no diphthongs).

ex. waombao = wah-OHM-bah-oh

Consonants are the same as English with the exception of the r which is flipped.

Range



T1 T2 T3 B1 B2 B3

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conducted by Daniel Hughes

Dedicated to Daniel Hughes
and the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus

Wana Baraka

Traditional Kenyan
Arr. Shawn Kirchner

With joyous excitement, building throughout ♩ = 90

T1
T2
T3
pp as if from a distance
B1 u - wa u - wa u - wa
mp
B2 Wa - na ba - ra - ka
pp as if from a distance
B3 u - wa u - wa u - wa

B1 u - wa u - wa u - wa
B2 wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa - na ba - ra - ka wa-le wa-om - ba - o,
B3 u - wa u - wa u - wa

u - wa u - wa u - wa
wa - na ba - ra - ka wa-le wa-om - ba - o, Ye - su mwen - ye -
u - wa u - wa u - wa

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ppp barely perceptible, like an overtone

*

T1 — u

B1 — u - wa u - wa u - wa u - wa

B2 — we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya,

B3 — u - wa u - wa u - wa u - wa

u

u - wa u - wa u - wa u - wa

al - le - lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya, Ye - su mwen - ye -

u - wa u - wa u - wa u - wa

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T1 — *pp* u

T3 — *mp* Wa - na a - ma - ni wa - le wa - om - ba - o,

B1 — *p* u - wa u - wa u - wa

B2 — *mf* we a - li - se - ma. Wa - na a - ma - ni wa - le wa - om - ba - o,

B3 — *mp* u Wa - na, wa - na, Wa - na, wa - na, Wa

*Tenors: At no time should the sound become "shouty." Falsetto production may be freely utilized, even at the loudest dynamic, if necessary, (and especially in the highest tessitura) to ensure a blended, easy sound.

T1

u

T2

T3

wa - na a - ma - ni wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa - na a - ma - ni

B1

u - wa u - wa u - wa

B2

wa - na a - ma - ni wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa - na a - ma - ni

B3

na, wa - na, Wa - na, wa - na, Wa - na, wa - na, Wa -

wa-le wa-om - ba - o, Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma.

u - wa u - wa - u Al-le - lu -

wa-le wa-om - ba - o, Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma.

na, wa - na, Wa - na, wa - na, Wa - na, wa - na, Al - le - lu -

o, wa-na fu - ra - ha wa-le wa-om - ba - o, mwen - ye -

wa - na fu - ra - ha, wa - na fu - ra - ha, Ye - su, Ye - su a -

wa - na fu - ra - ha, wa - na fu - ra - ha, Ye - su, Ye - su a -

wa - na fu - ra - ha, wa - na fu - ra - ha, Ye - su, Ye - su a -

wa - na fu - ra - ha wa-le wa om - ba - o, Ye - su mwen - ye -

ra - ha, wa-na fu - ra - ha, Ye - su mwen - ye - we a -

43

mf

we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya

mf

li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -

mf

li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -

mf

li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -

f en dehors

we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya,

f

li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -

al-le - lu-ya al-le - lu-ya al-le - lu-ya

ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le-lu - ya al - le, al -

ya al-le - lu - ya al-le - lu - ya! al-le - lu -

ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le-lu - ya al - le, al -

Al - le-lu - ya, al - le-lu-ya, Al - le-lu - ya,

ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le-lu - ya al - le, al -

al-le - lu - ya Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se-ma, a - li - se -

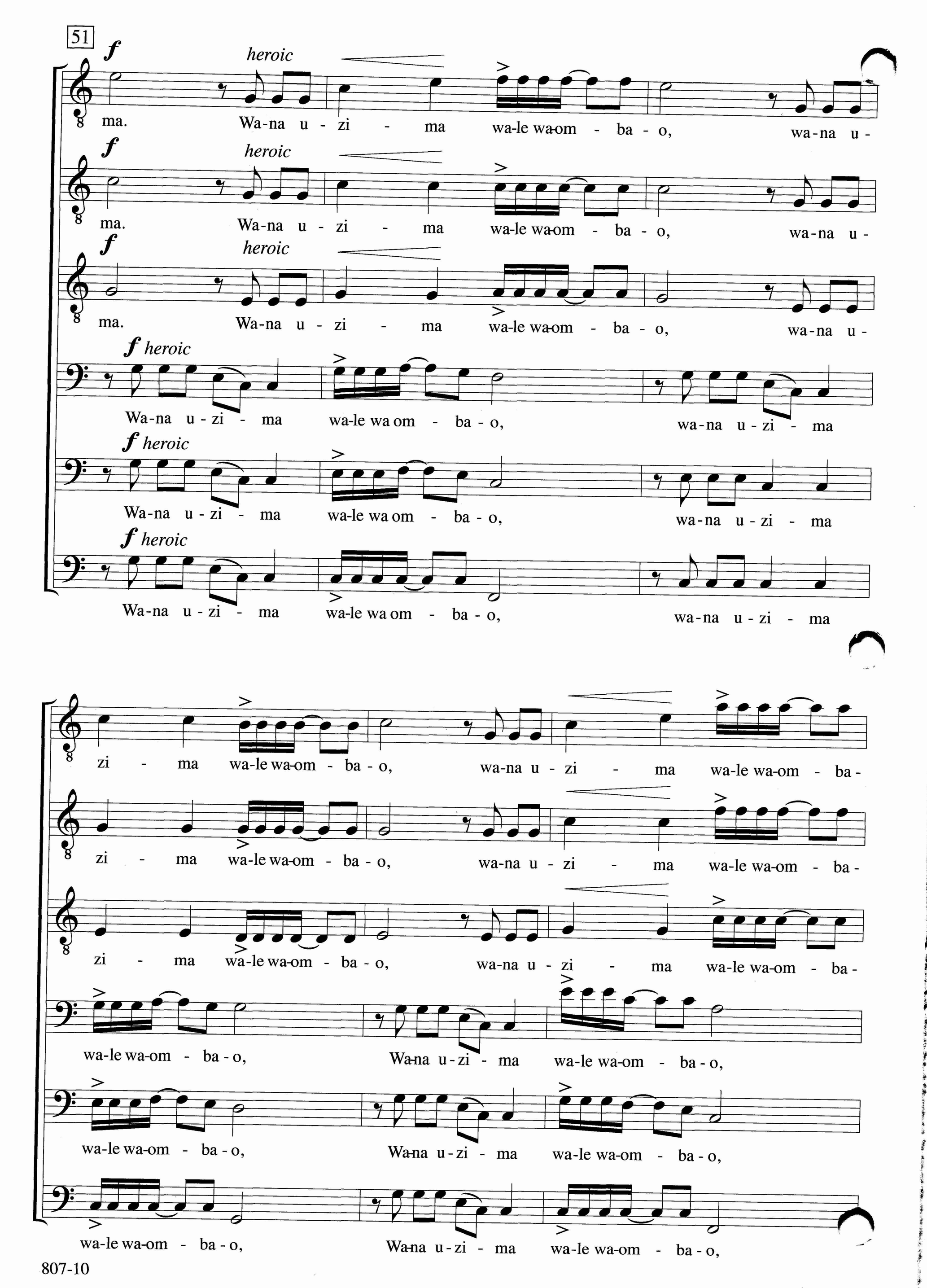
le - lu - ya al - le-lu - ya mwen - ye - we a - li - se-ma, a - li - se -

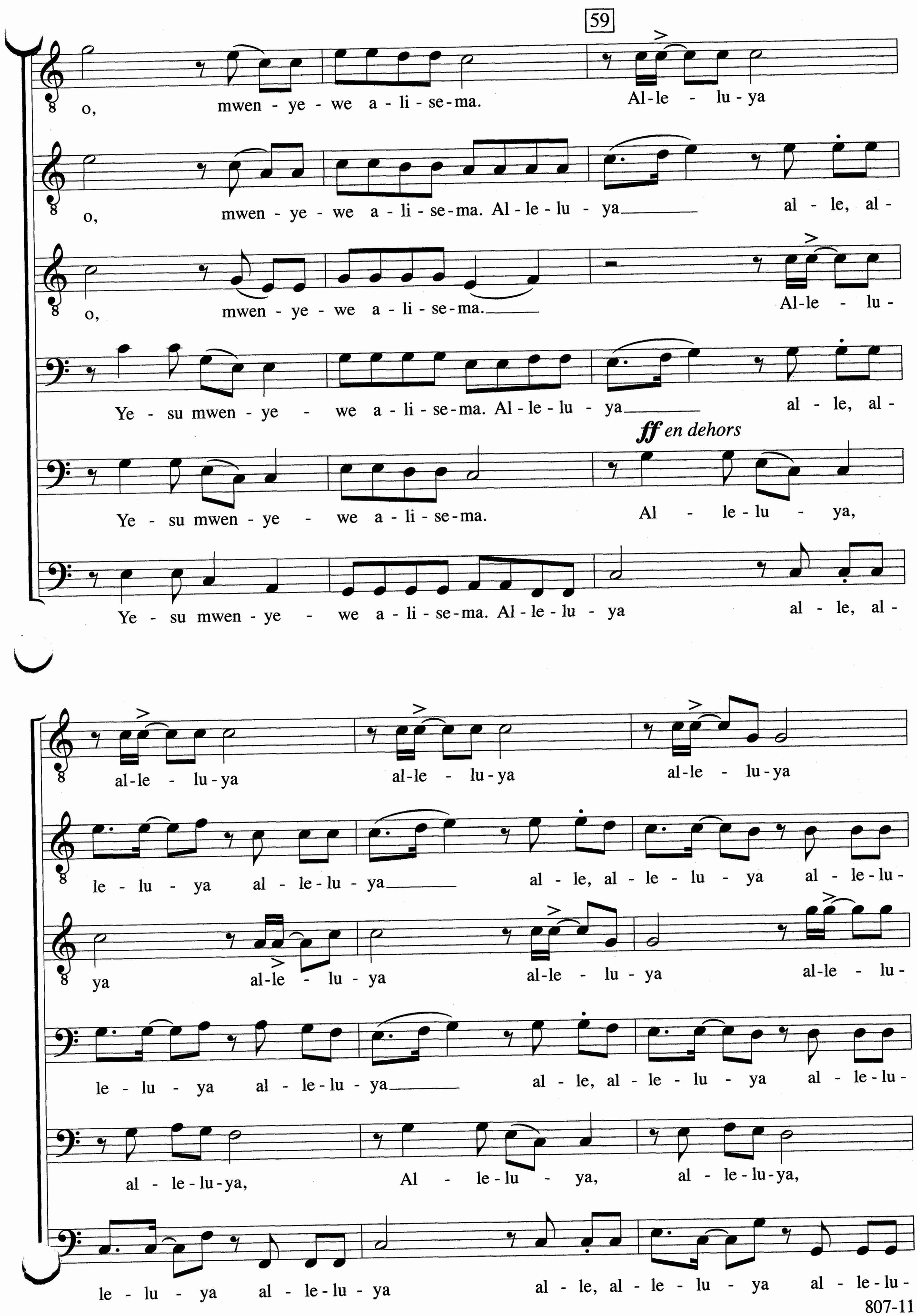
ya al-le - lu - ya mwen - ye - we a - li - se-ma, a - li - se -

le - lu - ya al - le-lu - ya mwen - ye - we a - li - se-ma.

al - le-lu-ya, Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se-ma.

le - lu - ya al - le-lu - ya mwen - ye - we a - li - se-ma.


51
f heroic
ma. Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa-na u -
f heroic
ma. Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa-na u -
f heroic
ma. Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa-na u -
f heroic
Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa om - ba - o, wa-na u - zi - ma
f heroic
Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa om - ba - o, wa-na u - zi - ma
f heroic
Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa om - ba - o, wa-na u - zi - ma
zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba -
zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba -
zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o, wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba -
wa-le wa-om - ba - o, Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o,
wa-le wa-om - ba - o, Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o,
wa-le wa-om - ba - o, Wa-na u - zi - ma wa-le wa-om - ba - o,


59
o, mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya
o, mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le, al -
o, mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu -
Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le, al -
ff en dehors
Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya,
Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le, al -
al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya
le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -
ya al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -
le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -
al - le - lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya,
le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -

al-le - lu - ya al-le - lu - ya Ye - su mwen - ye -

ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya mwen - ye -

ya al-le - lu - ya al-le - lu - ya mwen - ye -

ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya mwen - ye -

Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya, Ye - su mwen - ye -

ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya mwen - ye -

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ff

we a - li - se-ma. Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya,

ff

we a - li - se-ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -

ff

we a - li - se-ma. Al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu -

ff

we a - li - se-ma. Al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu -

ff en dehors

we a - li - se-ma. Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya,

ff

we a - li - se-ma. Al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le, al -

Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya,

ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya al - le, al -

ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu -

ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya al - le, al -

Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya,

le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le, al - le - lu - ya al - le, al -

molto rit.

al - le - lu - ya, Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma!

molto rit.

le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma!

molto rit.

ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya, al-le - lu - ya! mwen-ye - we a - li - se - ma!

molto rit.

le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma!

molto rit.

al - le - lu - ya, Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma!

molto rit.

le - lu - ya al - le - lu - ya, Ye - su mwen - ye - we a - li - se - ma!

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