

# Kwela Kwela

Sotho & Zulu Traditional Songs  
 Arranged by Univ. of Pretoria Youth Choir  
 Transcribed by Tova Olson

$\text{♩} = 80$  *Add 4x* 1.2.3.

SOPRANO  
 du du tu du du tu du du etc...

ALTO  
*Start*  
 Tu du du tu du du tu du du etc...

TENOR  
*Add 3x*  
 du du tu du du tu du du etc...

BASS  
*Add 2x*  
 du du tu du du tu du du etc...

5 4.

S.  
 du du Kwe-la kwe - - - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe-

A.  
 du du tu du Kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe

T.  
 du du tu du Kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe

B.  
 du du tu du tu du du etc...

9

S.  
 - la ma ma Kwe-la kwe - - - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe

A.  
 - la ma ama kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe

T.  
 - la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe

B.  
 - la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe

13 *Add 2x*

S. - la ma ma di o mo pi-la so O no o mei-le ka Mo - sa

A. - la ma ma Mo - sa - di o mo pi-la so O no o mei-le ka Mo - sa

T. *Add 2x*  
8 - la ma ma di o mo pi-la so O no o mei-le ka Mo - sa

B. O no o mei-le ka o no o mei - le ka

18 *Tutti*

S. - di o mo pi-la so O no o mei-le ka kga - le - se - la

A. - di o mo pi-la so O no o mei-le ka kga - le - se - la

T. 8 - di o mo pi-la so O no o mei-le ka kga - le - se - la

B. O no o mei-le ka o no o mei-le ka

23

S. kga - le - se - la kga - le - se - la kga

A. kga - le - se - la kga - le - se - la kga

T. 8 kga - le - se - la kga - le - se - la kga

B. O no o mei-le ka o no o mei-le ka o no o mei-le ka

28

1. 2.

S. - le - se - la\_\_\_\_\_ Mo - sa Kwe-la kwe - - - la\_\_\_\_\_ kwe-la kwe

A. - le - se - la\_\_\_\_\_ Mo - sa Kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe

T. - le - se - la\_\_\_\_\_ Mo - sa Kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe

B. \_\_\_\_\_ o no o mei - le ka

33

S. - la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la ma ma Kwe-la kwe - - - la\_\_\_\_\_ kwe-la kwe

A. - la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la ma ama kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe -

T. - la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe

B. \_\_\_\_\_ du du du etc...

37

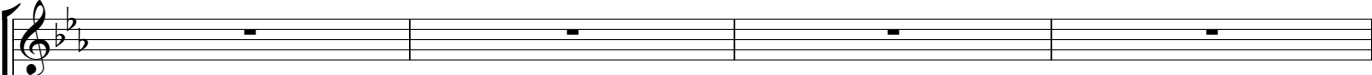
S. - la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la ma ma

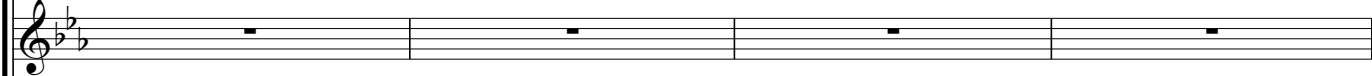
A. la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la ma ma


T. - la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la ma ma


B. \_\_\_\_\_ to du du tu du du du du du tu du du tu du du tu du du du du

42

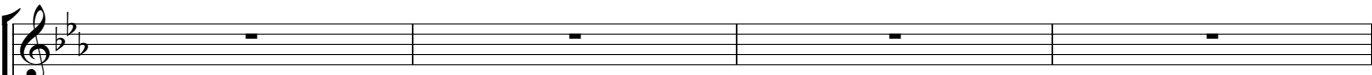
S. 


A. 


T. 
  
Kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe


B. 
  
du du tu du du tu du du tu etc...

46


S. 


A. 
  
Kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe

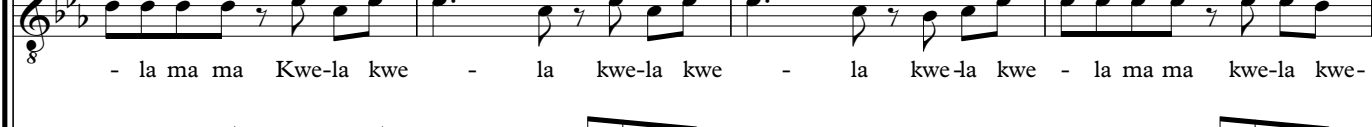
T. 
  
- la ma ma kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe


B. 

50

S. 
  
kwe-la kwe - - - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la mwe

A. 
  
- la ma ama kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe-

T. 
  
- la ma ma Kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la kwe-la kwe - la ma ma kwe-la kwe-

B. 

54

S. - la ma ma Mo - sa di o mo pi - la so O no o mei - le ka Mo - sa

A. - la ma ma Mo - sa di o mo pi - la so O no o mei - le ka Mo - sa

T. - la ma ma Mo - sa di o mo pi - la so O no o mei - le ka Mo - sa

B. O no o mei - le ka o no o mei - le ka

59

S. - di o mo pi - la so O no o mei - le ka kga - le - se - la

A. - di o mo pi - la so O no o mei - le ka kga - le - se - la

T. - di o mo pi - la so O no o mei - le ka kga - le - se - la

B. O no o mei - le ka o no o mei - le ka

64

S. kga - le - se - la kga - le - se - la kga

A. kga - le - se - la kga - le - se - la kga

T. kga - le - se - la kga - le - se - la kga

B. O no o mei - le ka o no o mei - le ka o no o mei - le ka

69

S. - le - se - la Mo - sa di o mo pi - la so

A. - le - se - la Mo - sa di o mo pi - la so

T. - le - se - la Mo - sa di o mo pi - la so

B. o no o mei - le ka

72 *rit.*

S. O no o mei - le ka

A. O no o mei - le ka

T. O no o mei - le ka

B. O no o mei - le ka

"Kwela – is a dance form that is danced at weddings and parties”

Kwela Kwela – A joyous exclamation which is set at a wedding, where the groom is being asked: “Where are you hiding the bride? ”

South Africa has many meanings for words. In this song "kwela" is taken from the Zulu for "get up."

It is an invitation to join the dance, as well as serving as a warning. It is said that the young men who played the pennywhistle on street corners also acted as lookouts to warn those enjoying themselves in the shebeens of the arrival of the police in the apartheid years.

A few of the singers of UPYC have heard these songs at home or in their communities where some of the elders would sing folk-songs carried over by the oral tradition of storytelling in African culture. They brought these songs to one of my rehearsals and discovered that the Kwela Rhythms and harmonies worked very well with the song about a bride that is late for her wedding "Mosadi". We started exploring and teaching it to each other and the catchy rhythms and words evolved into a new piece. Just as a community would do at a celebration, we harmonizing the melody, giving different voice parts to the choir and working out dance steps. This piece has gained so much popularity with different groups that associate with the lyrics and dancing, that UPYC has made it the "Macarena" of South African Choral Music.

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