

About this piece

In July 2009, along with a group of students and teachers from the Ft. Worth Academy of Fine Arts, I had the tremendous opportunity to teach at a fine arts camp for a group of students from the Tache Home and Balm of Gilead Home in Lusaka, Zambia, Africa. One of the songs of welcome the students sang to us was *Bonse Aba*. This is a festive, celebratory song, which loosely translated means, “All who sing with [the] spirit have a right to be called the children of God.” It soon became one of our favorite opening songs for the duration of our time in Africa.

This song has a number of different uses: as a processional, concert opener or closer, or as a part of a multicultural set. The drum accompaniment which is included can be played “as is,” or you may add other native African instruments and rhythmic ideas to enhance the performance. Clapping and side-to-side swaying may also be added; however, it is important to keep the movements tasteful, in view of the sacred nature of the text.

This arrangement is dedicated to the students and teachers of the Tache Home and Balm of Gilead Home, Lusaka, Zambia, and to the 2009 TEAM ZAMBIA! from Ft. Worth Academy of Fine Arts.

—Victor C. Johnson

Pronunciation Guide

Bonse <i>bohn-se</i>	aba <i>ah-bah</i>	mu <i>moo</i>	pokelela <i>poh-keh-leh-la</i>	
Ba <i>bah</i>	lipele <i>lee-peh-leh</i>	maka <i>mah-kah</i>	akuba <i>ah-koo-bah</i>	bana <i>bah-nah</i>
Kuba <i>koo-bah</i>	bana <i>bah-nah</i>	bakwa <i>bah-kwa</i>	lesa <i>leh-sah</i>	
Muyayaya <i>Moo-yah-yah-yah</i>	bakwa <i>bah-kwa</i>	lesa <i>leh-sah</i>		

Bonse Aba

TTB Chorus* with optional Percussion**

Traditional

Traditional Zambian Folk Song
Arranged by Victor C. Johnson

Ranges: Tenor I Tenor II Bass



① Rhythmically, with energy ♩ = ca. 96

Hand Drum (Treble Drum) *mf*

Djembe (Bass Drum)

Shaker

5

T.D. *mf*

B.D.

Sh.

9

T.D.

B.D.

Sh. *mf*

Duration: approx. 1:45

*Also available: SATB (15/2829H); SSA (15/2830H); Three-part Mixed (15/2689H); Two-part (15/2654H); Performance/Accompaniment CD (99/2618H).

**Percussion parts are available as a free download. Visit www.lorenz.com and search "15/2831H".

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13 **TI**

TI *f*

Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a -

B

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

16 *f*

f

Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li -

f

ku - ba ba - na. Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li -

f

Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li -

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

19

pe - le ma - ka a - ku - ba ba - na.

pe - le ma - ka a - ku - ba ba - na. Bon - se a - ba! mu

pe - le ma - ka a - ku - ba ba - na.

T.D.
B.D.
Sh.

22

po - ke - le - la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a - ku - ba ba - na.

T.D.
B.D.
Sh.

2

25

Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a -

Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a -

Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a -

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

28

ku - ba ba - na. *mf* Ku - ba ba - na

ku - ba ba - na. *mf* Ku - ba ba - na,

ku - ba ba - na. *mf* Ku - ba ba - na

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

mp

mp

mp

31

ba - kwa le - sa.

ku - ba ba - na ba - kwa le - sa. Ku - ba ba - na, ba - kwa le - sa.

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

34

Ku - ba ba - na ba - kwa le - sa.

ku - ba ba - na ba - kwa le - sa.

Ku - ba ba - na ba - kwa le - sa.

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

37 *f*

Ku-ba ba - na, ku - ba ba - na, ku-ba ba - na

f

Ku - ba ba - na, ku-ba ba - na

f

Ku - ba ba - na, ku-ba ba - na

T.D. *f*

B.D. *f*

Sh. *f*

40

ba - kwa le - sa. Ku-ba ba - na, ku - ba ba - na,

ba - kwa le - sa. Ku - ba ba - na,

ba - kwa le - sa. Ku - ba ba - na,

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

43

3

ku-ba ba - na ba - kwa le - sa. Bon - se a - ba! mu
 ku-ba ba - na ba - kwa le - sa.
 ku-ba ba - na ba - kwa le - sa.

T.D. *mf*
 B.D. *mf*
 Sh. *mf*

46

po - ke-le-la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a - ku - ba ba - na.

T.D.
 B.D.
 Sh.

49

Bon - se, — bon - se a - ba!

mf Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a -

mf Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a -

T.D. ||

B.D. ||

Sh. ||

52

ku - ba ba - na. Bon - se a - ba! mu po - ke-le-la Ba li -

ku - ba ba - na.

ku - ba ba - na.

T.D. ||

B.D. ||

Sh. ||

55

pe - le ma - ka a - ku - ba ba - na._____

Bon - se a - ba! mu

Bon - se a - ba! mu

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

58

Bon - se, — bon - se a - ba! ku - ba ba - na.

po - ke - le - la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a - ku - ba ba - na.

po - ke - le - la Ba li - pe - le ma - ka a - ku - ba ba - na.

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

61

Mu - ya - ya - ya_____

Mu - ya - ya - ya_____

Mu-ya - ya - ya,_____ mu-ya - ya - ya

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

64

ba - kwa le - sa. Mu - ya - ya - ya_____

ba - kwa le - sa. Mu - ya - ya - ya_____

ba - kwa le - sa. Mu-ya - ya - ya,_____

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

67

ba - kwa le - sa. Mu-ya - ya - ya,

ba - kwa le - sa.

mu-ya - ya - ya ba - kwa le - sa.

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

70

mu - ya - ya - ya, mu-ya - ya - ya ba - kwa le - sa.

Mu - ya - ya - ya, mu-ya - ya - ya ba - kwa le - sa.

Mu - ya - ya - ya, mu-ya - ya - ya ba - kwa le - sa.

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

73

f

Mu-ya - ya - ya, mu - ya - ya - ya, mu-ya - ya - ya

f

Mu-ya - ya - ya, mu - ya - ya - ya, mu-ya - ya - ya

f

Mu-ya - ya - ya, mu - ya - ya - ya, mu-ya - ya - ya

T.D. *f*

B.D. *f*

Sh. *f*

76

ff

ba - kwa le - sa. Mu-ya - ya - ya, mu - ya - ya - ya,

ff

ba - kwa le - sa. Mu-ya - ya - ya, mu - ya - ya - ya,

ff

ba - kwa le - sa. Mu-ya - ya - ya, mu - ya - ya - ya,

T.D.

B.D.

Sh.

79 *sub. p*

mu-ya - ya - ya ba - kwa le - sa. Bon - se a - ba!

mu-ya - ya - ya ba - kwa le - sa. Bon - se a - ba!

mu-ya - ya - ya ba - kwa le - sa. Bon - se a - ba!

T.D. *sub. p*

B.D. *sub. p*

Sh. *sub. p*

82 *ff*

Bon - se a - ba!

Bon - se a - ba!

Bon - se a - ba!

T.D. *f*

B.D. *f*

Sh. *f*