

**Betelehemu**  
**(Nigerian Christmas Song)**

For Four-Part Chorus of Mixed Voices  
 and Drums (ad lib)

Nigerian Carol  
 Via Olatunji and Wendell Whalum  
 Arranged by Barrington Brooks

J = c. 68 - 72

Soprano (4 times) (4 times) *mp legato*

Alto *mp legato*

Tenor *mp*

Bass *mp*

Piano (for rehearsal only)

Ba - ba \_\_\_\_\_ gbo - ju - le. \_\_\_\_\_ ba - ba \_\_\_\_\_ fe .

Ba - ba \_\_\_\_\_ gbo - ju - le. \_\_\_\_\_ ba - ba \_\_\_\_\_ fe .

Be - te - le - he - mu, Be - te - le - he - mu, Be - te - le - he - mu,

Be - te - le - he - mu, Be - te - le - he - mu, Be - te - le - he - mu,

1 2,3 1 2,3

13

14 rit.

hen - ti.

hen - ti.

rit.

Be - te - le - he - mu. Be - te - le - he - mu. Be - te - le - he - mu.

rit.

Be - te - le - he - mu. Be - te - le - he - mu. Be - te - le - he - mu.

15 f Joyfully  $\text{J} = 76 - 84$

4 \* A-wa - yi - o - ri Ba - ba gbo - ju - le,

f A-wa - yi - o - ri Ba - ba gbo - ju - le,

f A-wa - yi - o - ri Ba - ba gbo - ju - le,

f A-wa - yi - o - ri Ba - ba gbo - ju - le,

f Joyfully  $\text{J} = 76 - 84$

4 \*

\* Percussion, ad lib. May use: congo drums, bongo drums, and tambourines.

25

A-wa yi - c - ri Ba - ba fe - hen - ti,  
A-wa yi - o - ri Ba - ba fe - hen - ti,  
A-wa yi - o - ri Ba - ba fe - hen - ti,  
A-wa yi - o - ri Ba - ba fe - hen - ti,  
A-wa yi - o - ri Ba - ba fe - hen - ti, Ba - ba fe, Ni - bo

26

Ni - bo la - bi Je - su, ni - bo la - gbe bi - i  
Ni - bo la - bi Je - su, ni - bo la - gbe bi - i  
Ni - bo la - bi Je - su, ni - bo la - gbe bi - i  
ni - bo la - bi Je - su, ni - bo la - bi

ni-bo la - gbe je - su,  
ni-bo la - gbe bi - i.  
ni-bo la - gbe je - su,  
ni-bo la - gbe bi - i.  
ni-bo la - gbe je - su,  
ni-bo la - bi je - su, ni-bo la - bi.

To Coda

Be-te-le-he-mu i-lu a-na, ni-be la - bi Ba-ba o da-ju.  
 Be-te-le-he-mu i-lu a-na, ni-be la - bi Ba-ba o da-ju.  
 Be-te-le-he-mu i-lu a-na, ni-be la - bi Ba-ba o da-ju.  
 Be-te-le-he-mu i-lu a-na, ni-be la - bi Ba-ba o da-ju.

To Coda

ni-be la - bi Ba-ba o da-ju.  
 ni-be la - bi Ba-ba o da-ju.

2

Ba - ba o da - ju I - yin, I - yin.

Ba - ba o da - ju I - yin, I - yin.

Ba - ba o da - ju I - yin, I - yin.

Ba - ba o da - ju I - yin, I - yin.

4

I - yin, ni - fun - o A - du - pe fun o.

I - yin, ni - fun - o A - du - pe fun o.

I - yin, ni - fun - o A - du - pe fun o.

I - yin, ni - fun - o A - du - pe fun o.

Music score for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano.

**Soprano (Top Voice):**

- Line 1: A - du - pe fun o, — A - du - pe fun o jo - o - ni,
- Line 2: A - du - pe fun o, — A - du - pe fun o jo - o - ni,
- Line 3: A - du - pe fun o, — A - du - pe fun o jo - o - ni,
- Line 4: A - du - pe fun o, — A - du - pe fun o jo - o - ni,
- Line 5: (empty line)
- Line 6: (empty line)

**Alto (Second Voice):**

- Line 1: A - du - pe fun o, —
- Line 2: A - du - pe fun o, —
- Line 3: A - du - pe fun o, —
- Line 4: A - du - pe fun o, —

**Piano (Bottom Line):**

- Line 1: (empty line)
- Line 2: (empty line)
- Line 3: (empty line)
- Line 4: (empty line)

Music score for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano.

**Soprano (Top Voice):**

- Line 1: Ba - ba o - lo - re - o — I - yin fun o Ba - ba,
- Line 2: Ba - ba o - lo - re - o — I - yin fun o Ba - ba,
- Line 3: Ba - ba o - lo - re - o — I - yin fun o Ba - ba,
- Line 4: Ba - ba o - lo - re - o — I - yin fun o Ba - ba,
- Line 5: (empty line)

**Alto (Second Voice):**

- Line 1: Ba - ba o - lo - re - o —
- Line 2: Ba - ba o - lo - re - o —
- Line 3: Ba - ba o - lo - re - o —
- Line 4: Ba - ba o - lo - re - o —

**Piano (Bottom Line):**

- Line 1: (empty line)
- Line 2: (empty line)
- Line 3: (empty line)
- Line 4: (empty line)

1 - yin fun o Ba - ba,      1 - yin, fun o Ba - ba a - nu,

1 - yin fun o Ba - ba,      1 - yin, fun o Ba - ba a - nu,

1 - yin fun o Ba - ba,      1 - yin, fun o Ba - ba a - nu,

1 - yin fun o Ba - ba,      1 - yin, fun o Ba - ba a - nu,

(

1 - yin fun o Ba - ba,      1 - yin, fun o Ba - ba a - nu,

62

Ba - ba to - da wa - si.

Ba - ba to - da wa - si.

Ba - ba to - da wa - si.

Ba - ba to - da wa - si.

Ba - ba to - da wa - si.

repeat ad lib, as long as desired

Be - te - le - he - mu,

Be - te - le - he - mu.

Be - te - le - he - mu,

Be - te - le - he - mu.

repeat ad lib, as long as desired

D.S. al Coda

Coda

stringendo

Be - te - le - he - mu i - lu a - ra,

Ni - be la - bi Ba - ba o da - ju.

stringendo

Be - te - le - he - mu i - lu a - ra,

Ni - be la - bi Ba - ba o da - ju.

stringendo

Be - te - le - he - mu i - lu a - ra,

Ni - be la - bi Ba - ba o da - ju.

stringendo

Be - te - le - he - mu i - lu a - ra,

Ni - be la - bi Ba - ba o da - ju.

stringendo

# GUIDE FOR SINGERS OF THE YORUBA TEXT

A a	should be pronounced	A a	as in HARD	Soprano
E e	should be pronounced	A a	as in HATE	Alto
E e	should be pronounced	E e	as in HELP	
I i	should be pronounced	I i	as in HEEL	Tenor
O o	should be pronounced	Oo	as in GO	
Oo	should be pronounced	Oo	as in BORN	Bass
Uu	should be pronounced	OO oo	as in BOOK	
S s	should be pronounced	SH sh	as in SHE	Pi re c
GB gb	should be pronounced	GB gb	as in Bow to rhyme with go. Lips together with open throat, but sound to be limited without lip movement.	
Pp	should be pronounced	Pp	as in Wee Lips together with closed throat and teeth, but sound to be limited without lip movement. (sound explosive)	

## “Betelehemu” Translation

We are glad that we have a Father to trust.  
 We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon.  
 Where was Jesus born?  
 Where was He born?  
 Bethlehem, the city of wonder.  
 That it where the Father was born for sure.  
 Praise, praise, praise be to Him.  
 We thank Thee, we thank Thee, we thank Thee for this day,  
 Gracious Father.  
 Praise, praise, praise be to Thee,  
 Merciful Father.