

Bambelela

Never give up

Xhosa, South Africa

Si - zo bam - be - le - la!
You must ne - ver give up!

Oh bam - be - le - la!
O ne - ver give up!

Oh bam - be - le - la!
O ne - ver give up!

Bam - be - le - la,
Ne - ver give up,

bam - be - le - la,
ne - ver give up,

Oh
O

The first system of the musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment starts with a whole rest, then enters with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Oh bam - be - le - la
O ne - ver give up!

Oh bam - ba - bam - ba - bam - ba
O ne - ver, ne - ver, ne - ver,

bam - be - le - la,
ne - ver give up,

bam - be - le - la;
ne - ver give up,

bam - ba, bam - ba, bam - ba, bam - ba,
ne - ver, ne - ver, ne - ver, ne - ver,

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line features a melodic phrase with a long note on 'bam - ba - bam - ba - bam - ba'. The piano accompaniment provides a consistent harmonic support with eighth notes.

Si - zo bam - be - le - la!
You must ne - ver give up!

bam - ba Oh bam - ba, bam - be - le - la!
ne - ver, O ne - ver, ne - ver give up!

last time

The third system concludes the piece. It features a final vocal phrase and a piano accompaniment that ends with a double bar line. A 'last time' bracket is placed over the final measure of the vocal line.

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From the singing of JL Zwane Memorial Congregation, Gugulethu, Capetown.

Transcribed by Gordon Munro & Mairi Munro. Music setting and additional harmony by Phil Jakob, June 2002.

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