Likhon' ithemba lam (Xhosa church chorus)

Text	IPA	Translation
Likhon' ithemba lam	[li kɔn] [i tɛm bɑ] [lɑm]	My faith exists
Ndonyuka nalo	[ⁿdɔ ɲu kɑ] [nɑ lɔ]	I rise up with it
Ndize ndingen'	[ⁿdi zɛ] [ⁿdi ⁿgɛn]	I will enter
endumisweni	[ɛn du mi swɛ ni]	the heavens
yho!	[jɔ]	*[exclamation of joy]*
Themba lami	[tɛm bɑ] [lɑ mi]	My faith

During the 1970s, a slow, powerful hymn called *iThemba lami* became very popular in South Africa. People sang the song at church, at school and at social gatherings. *iThemba lami* was one of a number of hymns that provided strength and comfort to those suffering under the crushing weight of apartheid.

This joyous version is a newer setting of the familiar text, which we first heard performed by groups of high school and college students in Cape Town in 2012.

STRUCTURE:

AA BB ĂĂ BB A

Ă = *all parts hum*

*everyone begins dancing on the downbeat of the last note of the bass intro line (***lam***), just before the upper three voice-parts begin to sing

A Section = bass intro: *likhon' ithemba lam…* followed by choral entrance: *Ndize ndingen' endumisweni…*

B Section = *Themba lam, ndonyuka nalo…*