

Likhon' ithemba lam (Xhosa church chorus)

<u>Text</u>	<u>IPA</u>	<u>Translation</u>
Likhon' ithemba lam	[li kɔn] [i tɛm ba] [lam]	My faith exists
Ndonyuka nalo	[ˈdɔ ju ka] [na lɔ]	I rise up with it
Ndize ndingen'	[ˈdi zɛ] [ˈdi ˈgɛn]	I will enter
endumisweni	[ɛn du mi swɛ ni]	the heavens
yho!	[jɔ]	[exclamation of joy]
Themba lami	[tɛm ba] [la 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 ÄÄ BB A

Ä = 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...*

SOPRANO PART

(bass: *Likon i temba lam donyuka na-a-lo*
i temba lam)

di—ze ndigen endumi sweni
di—ze ndigen endumi sweni yo **2x**

(tenor: *temba la-a-mi*)

temba lam
donyuka nalo
temba lam
donyuka nalo
—di—ze
ndigen endumi sweni yo **2x**

(Back to first part and do one time)