

LIGHT THE KINARA FOR KWANZAA

for 2-part voices and piano
with optional staging and SoundTrax CD*

Words and Music by
SALLY K. ALBRECHT
(from the musical
"December Nights, December Lights")

African feel ($\text{C} = \text{ca. } 104$)
Chug to R 4x

PIANO

Chug to L 4x

5

9

PART I R palm to L shoulder L palm to R shoulder Drop head

Light the ki - na - ra _____ for

PART II Drop head R palm to L shoulder L palm to R shoulder

Light the _ ki - na - ra

* Also available for S.A.B. (20057).

SoundTrax CD available (20059).

† Feel free to add appropriate rhythm instruments.

13 *Open, lift and drop to sides* *Drop head*

Kwan - zaa. _____

Drop head *Open, lift and drop to sides*

for Kwan - zaa. _____

17 *As before*

Light the ki - na - ra _____ for

Drop head *As before*

Light the ki - na - ra

21

Kwan - zaa. _____

for Kwan - zaa. _____

Drop head

20058

25 R palm out to R - 90° (palm turned in)

mf

L palm out to L (opt. - overlap neighbor's palm)

Kwan - zaa, _____ first har - vest. _____ A So
Kwan - zaa, _____ first har - vest. _____ A So

Step touch, lifting and dropping palms 4x

29

R t L t

R t L Drop all the way

guide for dai - ly liv - ing, and fam - i - ly be - liefs.
light the sev - en can - dles, mi - shu - maa sa - ba.*
guide for dai - ly liv - ing, and fam - i - ly be - liefs.
light the sev - en can - dles, mi - shu - maa sa - ba.*

33 As before

Kwan - zaa, _____ first har - vest. _____ Come The
Kwan - zaa, _____ first har - vest. _____ Come The

* mee - shoo - mah sah - bah — the 7 candles

5
(repeat from m. 1)

join the cel - e - bra - tion, a ka - ra - mu*,- a feast.
prin - ci - ples _ of liv - ing. N - gu - zo sa - ba.*

join the cel - e - bra - tion, a ka - ra - mu*,- a feast.
prin - ci - ples _ of liv - ing. N - gu - zo sa - ba.*

(repeat from m. 1)

Chug R 4x

Chug L 4x

* kah - rah - moo, en - goo - zoh sah - bah

49

*As before**mf*

Light the _ ki - na - ra _____ for

mf

Light the _ ki - na - ra

mf

Kwan - zaa. _____

for Kwan - zaa. _____

58

As before

Kwan - zaa. first har - vest. _____ We gath - er the _ ma -

Come lis - ten to _ the

Kwan - zaa, _____ first har - vest. _____ We gath - er the _ ma -

Come lis - ten to _ the

63

1. 2.

za - o,* it's what we reap_ and sow.
sto - ries and songs of long_ a - go.

za - o,* it's what we reap_ and sow.
sto - ries and songs of long_ a -

go.

1. 2.

za - o,* it's what we reap_ and sow.

67 Chug R 2x

Palms circle open

Drop

Chug L 2x

mp (whisper)

Kwan - zaa! —

mp (whisper)

Kwan - zaa! —

mf

decreas.

Palms circle open

Drop

Palms to opp. shoulders,
drop head

72

Kwan - zaa! —

p

Kwan - zaa! —

p

rit.

fade out

* mah - zah - oh — fruits and vegetables of the harvest

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa (*kwahn-zah*) is a non-religious, non-political African-American holiday which was created in 1966 by Maulana (Ron) Karenga. The word “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits of the harvest” in Swahili. Mr. Karenga took elements from many African harvest festivals to create this holiday which lasts for seven days from December 26 to January 1.

A *kinara* (kee-nah-rah) is a candle holder which holds seven candles or *mishumaa saba* (mee-shoo-mah sah-bah)—one for each night of Kwanzaa. The *kinara* symbolizes the continent and peoples of Africa. Three candles are red (to the right), three candles are green (to the left) and the center one is black.

Red stands for the blood of the ancestors shed for generations.

Green stands for the land, the youth, the future growth.

Black stands for the race of the people.

Each day a candle should be lit, starting with the center black candle, then lit alternately from left (green) to right (red). A principle of Kwanzaa is recited each day when the candle is lit. These seven principles or *Nguzo saba* (en-goo-zoh sah-bah) serve as a guide for daily living.

On the sixth day, many homes have a feast or *karamu* (kar-rah-moo). A large straw placemat called a *mkeka* (em-kay-kah), representing the reverence for tradition, is placed on the table or floor. The *mazao* (mah-zah-oh), the fruits and vegetables of the harvest, are placed on the *mkeka* and shared by all.

On the seventh day, each child receives a simple gift or *zawadi* (zah-wah-dee), preferably a hand-made gift related to education or connected to African culture or ancestry.

Kwanzaa is based on seven principles, one for each of the seven days:

1. **Umoja** (oo-moh-jah) - Unity. To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
2. **Kujichagulia** (koo-jee-cha-goo-lee-ah) - Self-determination. To define, create, name and speak for ourselves as opposed to having others do this for us.
3. **Ujima** (oo-jee-mah) - Collective work and responsibility. To build and maintain our community together and to solve our problems together.
4. **Ujamaa** (oo-jah-mah) - Cooperative economics. To build and maintain our own businesses.
5. **Nia** (nee-ah) - Purpose. To collectively build and develop our community.
6. **Kuumba** (koo-oom-bah) - Creativity. To do whatever we can to leave our community more beautiful than when we inherited it.
7. **Imani** (ee-mah-nee) - Faith. To believe in our people.

