

“Tshepa Thapelo” is a Sotho folk song. Sotho is a Bantu language spoken primarily in South Africa, as well as in the small nation of Lesotho (which literally means “the land of the people who speak Sotho”). The song has been recorded by numerous artists, including the Soweto Gospel Choir, a Grammy and Emmy Award-winning choir from the urban area of Soweto in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Translation and Pronunciation Guide

(The opening consonant sound of the word “tshepa” is primarily “t,” but should include a very slight “ts” sound.)

Tshepa thapelo.

(Put your trust in prayer.)

Tseh-pah tah-peh-loh.

Leha o thabile, rapela. Leha o lemonateng, rapela.

(Even if you are happy, pray. Even if you are joyful, pray.)

Leh-hah oh tah-bee-leh, rah-peh-lah. Leh-hah oh leh-moh-nah-tihng, rah-peh-lah.

Hoseng ha o tsoha, bosiu ha o robala, tshepa thapelo.

(When you wake up in the morning, when you sleep at night, put your trust in prayer.)

Hoh-sihng hah oh tsoh-hah, boh-see hah oh roh-bah-lah, tseh-pah tah-peh-loh.

Oh kae, kae kapa kae, oh neng, neng kapa neng, tshepa thapelo.

(Wherever you are, whatever the time, put your trust in prayer.)

Oh kahee, kahee kah-pah kahee, oh nihng, nihng kah-pah nihng, tseh-pah tah-peh-loh.

Percussion Instructions

WOOD BLOCK—Play on beats two and four in measures 1-24. Play quarter notes in measures 25-47. Play the downbeat of measure 48.

SHAKER—Play eighth notes in measures 25-47. Play the downbeat of measure 48.

CONGAS—Play the following pattern in measures 1-47. Play the downbeat of measure 48. Add a roll in the final bar.



TSHEPA THAPELO

for 3-part mixed voices, a cappella
with optional wood block, shaker, and congas*

Sotho Folk Song
Arranged by RUTH MORRIS GRAY

With energy (♩ = ca. 96)

PART I *mp*

Tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo,

PART II *mp*

Tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo,

PART III *mp*

Tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo,

With energy (♩ = ca. 96)

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

mp

* Also available for S.A.T.B. (43274) and S.S.A. (43276).

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tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo. Tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo,

tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo. Tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo,

tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo. Tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo,

The musical score for measures 3-5 consists of three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo. Tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo," repeated for each voice part.

tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo. *mf* Le -

tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo.

tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo.

The musical score for measures 6-8 consists of three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo. *mf* Le -" for the first voice part, and "tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tshe - pa — tha - pe - lo, tha - pe - lo." for the other two voice parts. The piano accompaniment includes a dynamic marking of *mf* at the end of the section.

9

ha o tha - bi - le, ra - pe - la.

mf

Le - ha o tha - bi - le, oh ra - pe -

mf

Le - ha o tha - bi - le, oh ra - pe -

12

Le - ha o le - mon - a - teng, ra - pe -

la. Le - ha o le - mon - a - teng,

la. Le - ha o le - mon - a - teng,

15

17

la. _____ { Ho - seng ha o tso -
O kae, kae ka - pa _____

oh ra - pe - la. { Ho - seng ha o tso -
O kae, kae ka - pa _____

oh ra - pe - la. { Ho - seng ha o tso -
O kae, kae ka - pa _____

18

ha, bo - siu ha o ro - ba - la, } tshe - pa
kae, o neng neng ka - pa _____ neng, }

ha, bo - siu ha o ro - ba - la, } tshe - pa
kae, o neng, neng ka - pa _____ neng, }

ha, bo - siu ha o ro - ba - la, } tshe - pa
kae, o neng, neng ka - pa _____ neng, }

21

cresc.

tha - pe - lo, — tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — tshe-pa tha - pe - lo.

cresc.

tha - pe - lo, — tshe-pa tha - pe - lo.

cresc.

tha - pe - lo, — tshe-pa tha - pe - lo.

cresc.

24

f

25

Tshe-pa tha-pe - lo, — ha — o tso - ha, — tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, —

f

Tshe-pa tha-pe - lo, — ha — o tso - ha, — tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, —

f

Tshe-pa tha-pe - lo, — ha — o tso - ha, — tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, —

f

27

— oh — ro - ba - la. — Tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — oh — ra - pe - la, —

— oh — ro - ba - la. — Tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — oh — ra - pe - la, —

— oh — ro - ba - la. — Tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — oh — ra - pe - la, —

— oh — ro - ba - la. — Tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — oh — ra - pe - la, —

30

— tshe-pa tha - pe - lo — Tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — *2nd time - sub. p*

— tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — tshe-pa tha - pe - lo. Tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — *2nd time - sub. p*

— tshe-pa tha - pe - lo. — Tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — *2nd time - sub. p*

— tshe-pa tha - pe - lo. — Tshe-pa tha - pe - lo, — *2nd time - sub. p*

33

— ha o tso-ha, tshe-pa tha-pe-lo, oh ro-ba-la.

— ha o tso-ha, tshe-pa tha-pe-lo, oh ro-ba-la.

— ha o tso-ha, tshe-pa tha-pe-lo, oh ro-ba-la.

36

— Tshe-pa tha-pe-lo, oh ra-pe-la, tshe-pa tha-pe-lo.

— Tshe-pa tha-pe-lo, oh ra-pe-la, tshe-pa tha-pe-lo.

— Tshe-pa tha-pe-lo, oh ra-pe-la, tshe-pa tha-pe-lo.

39

1. 2.

tshe - pa tha - pe - lo. tshe - pa tha - pe - lo.

42 *opt. SOLO*
(or small group)

43

f Tha - pe - lo, ha o tso - ha, tha - pe -

PART I

PART II

Tshe - pa tha - pe - lo, ha o tso - ha, tshe - pa tha - pe - lo,

PART III *f*

45 *rit. e decresc.*

- lo, oh ro - ba - la. Tha - pe - lo, oh ra - pe - la,

rit. e decresc.

oh ro - ba - la. Tshe - pa tha - pe - lo, oh ra - pe - la,

rit. e decresc.

rit. e decresc.

48 *mp*

tshe - pa tha - pe - lo.

mp

tshe - pa tha - pe - lo.

mp

mp