

# BETELEHEMU

for S.S.A. voices with percussion\*

Yoruba Text

Nigerian Christmas Carol  
Arranged by **ANDY BECK**

Slowly (♩ = ca. 69)  
*mp*

ALTO

Be - te - le - he - mu. Be - te - le - he - mu.

SHEKERE

CONGAS

LARGE DRUM

3 SOPRANO II  
*mp*

Be - te - le - he - mu. Be - te - le - he - mu.

ALTO

Be - te - le - he - mu. Be - te - le - he - mu.

\* Also available for 3-part mixed/S.A.B. (46581), T.T.B. (46583), and 2-part (46584).  
Please visit [alfred.com/choralparts](http://alfred.com/choralparts) to download free individual percussion parts.

#### PRONUNCIATION/TRANSLATION:

*Ah-wah yee-oh ree Bah-bah goh-zjoo-leh.* = We rejoice, for we have a trustworthy Father.

*Ah-wah yee-oh ree Bah-bah feh-heen-tee.* = We rejoice, for we have a dependable Father.

*Nee-boh lah-bee Yeh-soo? Nee-boh lah-bee bee-ee?* = Where was Jesus born? Where was he born?

*Beh-teh-leh-heh-moo, ee-loo ah-rah,* = Bethlehem, city of wonder,

*nee-beh lah-bee Bah-bah oh dah-zjoo.* = that is where the Father was born for sure.

*Ee-yeen, ee-yeen, ee-yeen nee foon oh.* = Praise, praise, praise be to you.

*Ah-doo-peh foon oh joh oh-nee, Bah-bah oh-loh oh-reh.* = We thank thee for this day, gracious Father.

*Ee-yeen foon oh Bah-bah ah-noo, Bah-bah toh dah-wah see.* = Praise be to the merciful Father, the Father who created us.

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5

SOPRANO I

*mp*

A - wa ——— yi - o ri Ba - ba gbo -

SOPRANO II

Be-te - le-he- mu. Be-te - le-he- mu. Be-te - le-he- mu.

ALTO

Be-te - le-he- mu. Be-te - le-he- mu. Be-te - le-he- mu.

*mp*

8

ju - le. A - wa ——— yi - o ri

Be-te - le-he- mu. Be-te - le-he- mu. Be-te - le-he- mu.

Be-te - le-he- mu. Be-te - le-he- mu. Be-te - le-he- mu.



17 **§** Joyful and rhythmic (♩. = ca. 69)

*mf*

A - wa yi - o ri Ba - ba gbo - ju - le.

*mf*

A - wa yi - o ri Ba - ba gbo - ju - le.

*mf*

A - wa yi - o ri Ba - ba gbo - ju - le.

**§** Joyful and rhythmic (♩. = ca. 69)

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

19

A - wa yi - o ri Ba - ba fe - hin - ti.

A - wa yi - o ri Ba - ba fe - hin - ti.

A - wa yi - o ri Ba - ba fe - hin - ti.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

21

*f* Ni - bo l'a - bi Je - su? \_\_\_\_\_

*f* Ni - bo l'a - bi Je - su, Je - su?

*f* Ni - bo l'a - bi Je - su, Je - su?

*f*

*f*

*f*

23

*mf* Ni bo l'a - bi bi - i? \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* Ni - bo l'a - bi bi - i, bi - i?

*mf* Ni - bo l'a - bi bi - i, bi - i?

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

25

Be - te - le - he - mu, i - lu a - ra,

Be - te - le - he - mu,

Be - te - le - he - mu,

Final time to CODA ⊕  
(p. 12, m. 55)

27

ni - be l'a - bi Ba - ba o da - ju.

ni - be l'a - bi Ba - ba o da - ju.

ni be l'a - bi Ba - ba o da - ju.

Final time to CODA ⊕  
(p. 12, m. 55)

29

Musical score for measures 29-31. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "I - yin, i - yin, i - yin ni fun". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are first and second endings indicated by repeat signs and first/second endings brackets.

32

Musical score for measures 32-34. The score continues in the same key signature and time signature. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are: "o. \_\_\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are first and second endings indicated by repeat signs and first/second endings brackets.

35

*mf* A - du - pe fun o, \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* A - du - pe fun o, \_\_\_\_\_ *grad. cresc.* a - du - pe fun

*mf* A - du - pe fun o, \_\_\_\_\_ *grad. cresc.* a - du - pe fun

*mf* *grad. cresc.*

*mf* *grad. cresc.*

*mf* *grad. cresc.*

38 *grad. cresc.* a - du - pe fun o \_\_\_\_\_ *f* jo o-ni, Ba - ba o - lo

*f* 2 2 o, \_\_\_\_\_ a - du - pe fun o jo o-ni, Ba - ba o - lo

*f* 2 2 o, \_\_\_\_\_ a - du - pe fun o jo o-ni, Ba - ba o - lo

*f* 2 2

*f* 2 2

*f*



42 43 *mf*

o - re. — I - yin fun o Ba - ba,

*mf* *grad. cresc.*

o - re. — I - yin fun o Ba - ba, i - yin fun o

*mf* *grad. cresc.*

o - re. — I - yin fun o Ba - ba, i - yin fun o

46 *grad. cresc.*

i - yin fun o Ba - ba, Ba - ba a - nu,

Ba - ba, i - yin fun o Ba - ba a - nu,

Ba - ba, i - yin fun o Ba - ba a - nu,



55 CODA

Be - te - le - he - mu.

Be - te - le - he - mu.

Be - te - le - he - mu.

CODA

6/8

6/8

6/8

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

57

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*