

High

We are mar - ching in the light of God we are marching in the light of God We are
 Si Ya Hamb e kukha nyen kwen khos si ya hamb e ku kha nyen kewn khos Si ya

Low

We are mar ching the light of God we are marching in the light of God We are

Mel.

Si ya ham_ba O Oh mar-ching in the light of God Si ya
 Si ya ham_ba O - O ham be ku kha nyen kewn khos Si ya

Low

God Siya ham ba hamba siya hamba hamba We are marching in the light of God

Siyahamba: A South African Freedom Song.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' -- We are marching in the light of God

I adapted this from a choral piece which was collected and edited by Anders Nyberg.

Tips for leading: This song has a great African rhythm and sound and is sung in two parts. It's important to stress the lower part as the most important part of the song, and to get the majority of voices on the lower part. If you are leading a dance where there are more women than men, it is best NOT to split the high and low part between women and men or the lower part will get lost. Have people divide themselves into higher and lower voices, and then get a show of hands to make sure you have a majority on the lower part.

Teach the lower part first and sing it through a few times before adding the higher part. Don't make everyone stand around while they are catching the subtleties of the tune. The dance movements are very simple, so get them dancing and alternate singing the lower part, then the upper part several times through before blending them together.

When you are teaching the melody, point out the musical "triplets" on "Light of God". This will help the dancers get the right swing to the tune. Also, the high voices will probably have a hard time getting the rhythm right on the "O-Ohh" part, count it for them with your fingers held high.

This song has the best impact if you can lead the dancers through enough repeats of their part so that they really nail it. After blending the two voices together for a few rounds, drop down on the breath as this helps put the tune into the body. Then come back with first the lower part, and then add the higher voices - to make triple sure that they really have it. Then drop out the musical instruments and finish the song a capella. The dancers will be uplifted by how great they sound!

Movements:

Part 1: We are marching in the light of God, We are marching in the light of God.

The basic step is on the downbeat, right foot taps to the right, then step forward. Left foot taps to the left, then step forward. Add some swing to this step by putting hands on hips and swinging the butt back on each step. This butt movement goes through the whole song. It's not hips moving side to side, but nice big derriere's flapping to the back that make this a great African piece. Make it swing, and emphasize the the circle needs to move forward with each step.

Part 2: Siyahamba hamba siyahamba hamba, We are marching in the light of God.

Turn and walk toward the middle of the circle for first half of the phrase, then step backwards on second half. Add some swing to this by clenching your fists in front of your chest and do a round-and-round movement with the fists that makes the shoulders revolve. Lean forward a little bit and keep that butt swinging out backwards.