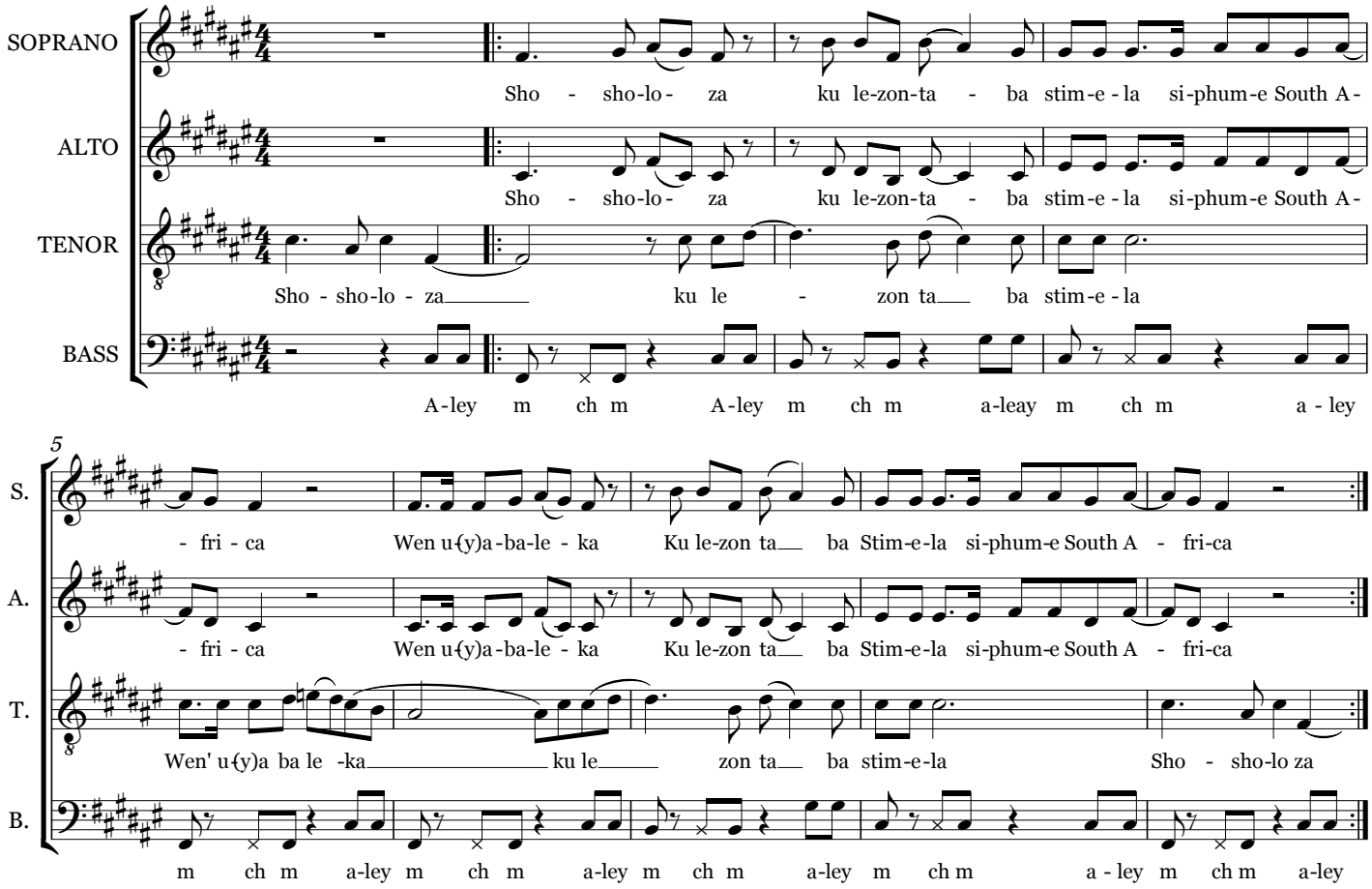
Shosholoza

based on version sung by the Drakensberg Boys Choir

Traditional South African work song



This song was traditionally sung by all-male work gangs in a call and response style. The Zulu word Shosholoza means "*go forward*" or "*make way for the next man*," and is also reminiscent of the sound made by the steam train (stimela) described in the song.

It has become something of an un -official anthem in South Africa, and is sung at many sporting events and gatherings. Though not originally a song of joy or victory, having been sung by mine workers traveling on the trains to work or while working in the mines, a dark and harsh reality, it has since come to represent the banding together of a people, their pride and dignity, and their progression into a new and free world.

A rough translation:

Move fast
on those mountains
train from South Africa.
You are running away
on those mountains
train from south Africa.