

Baba Wethu - Our Father

Music&Lyrics Denebi/Zemmerlöv/Carriers

Even without instruments the singing tradition in South Africa and Namibia is tremendously strong. If you visit a school class and ask for a song, it's guaranteed that the students will sing a cappella in four part harmony and dance along. For a singer it's like being in musical heaven!

Baba Wethu is one of the great songs from the Zulu culture that thousands of Swedish students have now learned to sing.

According to Thandiwe Mazibuko, music coach and Star Choir leader, the black people were using music with a hidden message to fight apartheid. Hence this song was used as if it's Jesus saying such words but it was the black man saying "I forgive the white man because he does not know what he is doing"

(This song is taken from the Biblical story of Jesus when he died on the cross. He said "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." The meaning of that can then be used for other political things but initially the song is a song of comfort. When someone is doing something bad to you then you can say those words remembering that Jesus forgave the ones who killed him. When Jesus died the plan of salvation was fulfilled. Meaning even when you try to do a bad thing to someone, it can be a way to make that person stronger than before.

Holding a grudge against someone is not worth it)



Foto: Torleif Svensson