

# FREEDOM NOW!



**Freedom songs from Southern  
Africa sung by Tyneside  
Anti-Apartheid Choir**

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# FREEDOM NOW!

- A 1: Lead us Tamba! 2: Bamthatha 3: Shosholoza Mandela  
4: Wathin' abafazi/Malibongwe  
5: Senzenina 6: Eri! 7: Perfume for Winnie  
B 1: Unzima 2: Beautiful Africa 3: Uya Joyinani  
4: Freedom is coming 5: Rohihala Mandela 6: Forward!  
7: Kore Kore 8: Nkosi Sikelel' i'Africa

Recorded at: The Sound Room, Deckham, Gateshead. Engineered by: Gory Clennell.

Allison Barrett, Willem Beukes, Steph Brandon, Jean Crocker, Roger Haydon, Bill Haylock,  
Ewart Hood, Garry Jenkins, Doreen Joslin, Meshak Kagya, Marcia Ley, Rebecca Little,  
Mike Lockwood, Janet Longbottom, Angi Mackie, Jenni Madison, Elaine Mason,  
Andy McGuffog, Rachel Putz, Rachel Quibell, Toby Quibell, Eileen Ridley, Jan Rudge, Bertha  
Shipanga, Nomso Singaphi, Martin Spence, Mark Todman, Kathy Wesolowski, Wendy Wood.  
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Childrens' Warehouse, 109 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, for providing a room for our  
regular rehearsals.

Jacket design by Infinite Images  
Photo and text by Bill Haylock

## THE CHOIR

Lynside Anti-apartheid choir was formed in 1987 to raise awareness of local anti-apartheid activists through authentic songs of the freedom struggle in South Africa. It performs at anti-apartheid meetings, benefits, rallies, street collections and pickets. Although it has members who are skilled musicians, it is an entirely amateur choir. The only requirement for membership is a commitment to the aims of the Anti-apartheid Movement and the ability to enjoy making music with others.

To contact the Choir, write c/o 1 Drury Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne.

## THE SONGS

Most of the songs sung by the Choir originate from the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa although some come from liberation struggles in other countries of Southern Africa such as Namibia and Zimbabwe. They have been collected from recordings, and from South African musicians and anti-apartheid activists visiting the North East of England.

Tambo! "Lead us Tambo!"...this song praises Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC. Bantathini is about Nelson Mandela's 27 years of imprisonment. Though now released from prison, he is not yet free - and this song has a message of determination and hope that is as relevant as ever. Shosholozza Mandela came from a South African theatre group, the Long March Players. They toured Britain in 1987 to publicise a bitter dispute with British multinational company BTR, who sacked 950 workers in 1985 after a two day strike for basic trade union rights. The dispute still goes on 5 years later. "Within" abantzi gives a defiant message about the powerful role of women in the struggle. "Now you have struck the women you have struck a rock. You have dislodged a boulder that will crush you!" Mhlongwe praises these strong women. Senzani is an emotional song, frequently sung at funerals of the victims of Apartheid. It asks: "What have we done to deserve this? Our only crime is that we are black".

Ereli praises Umkhonto We Sizwe, The Spear of the Nation. The armed wing of the ANC, it was formed only after years of peaceful protests against apartheid had continually been met by brutal violence and repression from the South African government. "Perfume for Winnie Sung by Katherine Zeserson, she heard this song performed by its writer, the South African musician Abdullah Ibrahim, at a music festival in East Berlin. Uzima originated as a recruiting call to Umkhonto We Sizwe. Beautiful Africa ... where hideous crimes against humanity have been perpetrated to maintain white privilege. Chimoyo and Nyozonzo were refugee camps where hundreds of children, men and women were massacred by Rhodesian forces.

Uya Joyinani is another recruiting song... "When are you going to join us... We are dying... are you not ashamed? ...". Freedom is coming... a simple song with a joyful message of hope. Robhala is Nelson Mandela's first name. The name Nelson was given him at school by a white teacher who thought his real name too difficult to pronounce. Forward! The Freedom Charter, whose message runs through this song, is a declaration of the aspirations to freedom, justice and equality for all people in the new South Africa to come. Kore, Kore is a song from Zimbabwe, calling on people to support the movement for liberation from the white supremacist Rhodesian regime. Mkosi Sikelel' iAfrica is the Anthem of the African National Congress.