NGOMA KURILA

[A Lament]

A Venda lament. A mother's child cries from hunger, and she tries to comfort it.

A song without a particular key stressed and with a very hollow harmonic structure. On the piano, try playing the figure with a repetitive, drone-like quality.



On the guitar, keep a steady rhythm with a modified "G" chord:



The first section [in 4/4] should be sung ad lib and unaccompanied. In Africa, the usual accompaniment is played by a small thumb piano, known as a "mbira," and a bass cowbell.



Oh Mother! Oh Mother!
What am I going to eat today?
My child! I will prepare some food.
Dear Mother! Do so.



