

Umqokozo

[A String of Beads]

A Xhosa folk song performed at parties and feasts.

I have a string of red beads.

It was given to me

By my father.

[These three lines are sung three times.]

I have a string of red beads, Mother, hey!

They say, hey, Mother,

I have a string of red beads, Mother, hey!

They say, he, le, le,

The children are crying.

They cry, he, le, le,

I have a string of red beads,

Mother, le, le, le.

I have a string of red beads.

It was given to me

By my father.

[These three lines are sung three times.]

I have a string of red beads.

Note the ascending bass line.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Piano, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a bass line with eighth-note strokes and a treble line with eighth-note chords. The bottom staff is for the Guitar, also in a treble clef, one flat, and 4/4 time. The guitar part features a bass line with eighth-note strokes and a treble line with eighth-note chords. Below the guitar staff, there is a sequence of eight arrows labeled F and T, indicating a specific fingering pattern for the guitar's bass line: F, T, F, F, T, F, F, F.

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B = 176

F F
NDI - N'UM - QO - KO - ZO — BOM -

F C7 F
VU NDA WU PHI WA — NGU — BA - WO

F F F
NDI - N'UM - QO - KO - ZO — BOM - VU MA - MA HE

C7 F F
BA - THI HE MA - MA NDI - N'UM - QO - KO - ZO — BOM -

F C7 F
VU MA - MA HE BA - THI HE - LE - LE BA - YA

F F C7
LI — LA BAN - TWAN NDA WU

F F F
HE MA - MA BA - YA - LI — LA BAN - TWAN

C7 F F F
BA - THI HE MA - MA BA - YA LI — LA BAN - TWAN

C7 F F
 BA - THI HE MA - MA NDI - N'UM - QO - KO - ZO__ BOM -
 VU MA - MA HE MA - MA NDI - N'UM -
 QO - KO - ZO__ BOM - VU NDA WU PHI WA NGU__ BA -
 WO MA - MA NDI - N'UM - QO - KO - ZO__ BOM - VU NDA WU PHI WA NGU__ BA -
 WO NDA - NA NDI - N'UM - QO - KO - ZO__ BOM - VU MA - MA HE
 BA - THI HE MA - MA NDI - N'UM - QO - KO - ZO__ BOM -
 VU MA - MA HE BA - THI HE - LE - LE NDI - N'UM -
 QO - KO - ZO__ BOM - VU MA - MA HE C7 F HMM