

THULA MAMA

SSAA, a cappella



Sweet and gentle, with a lilt ♩ = 60

(make a pronounced swell)

Traditional, South Africa

Arranged by Brian Tate

1 *p unis.* Thu - la,* thu-la ma-ma_ thu-la, thu-la ma-ma_ thu - la, thu-la ma - ma_ (enjoy the scoops!)

2

3

4 *p* thu - la. *mp* Oh, thu - la, *sim.* thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la, thu - la ma - ma

5

6

7 **A** *mp* thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la. Thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_

8

9 *mp* thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la. Thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_

10 *mp (enjoy the scoops!)* Thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la ma - ma_

11

12

S.1, 2 — thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la.

A.1 — thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la.

A.2 — thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la ma - ma. Thu - la ma - ma_

*sing through the "l" as much as possible: "thu-l-l-la" on the quarter-to-eighth note figures



2 **B** *mf* 13 14 15

S.1, 2 Thu - la, thu - la ma - ma___ thu - la, thu - la ma - ma thu - la, thu - la ma - ma___

A.1 *mf* Thu - la,___ ma - ma. ___ Thu - la,___ ma - ma. ___ Thu - la,___ ma - ma. ___

A.2 *mf* ___ thu - la ma - ma___ thu - la ma - ma___ thu - la ma -

C 17 18

S.1, 2 1. 2. *mf* thu - la. thu - la. Ma - ma don't you cry,___ ma - ma don't you cry,

A.1 *mf* Thu - la. ___ Thu - la. ___ Thu - la, thu - la ma - ma

A.2 *mf* ma. Thu - la ma - ma___ ma. Ma - ma thu - la ma - ma,

19 20 21 *mp* *mf*

S.1, 2 ___ bet - ter by ___ and by, ___ ma - ma don't you cry. ___

A.1 *mp* *mf* thu - la, thu - la ma - ma, thu - la, thu - la ma - ma, thu - la. Ma - ma don't you cry,

A.2 *mp* *mf* ___ ma - ma thu - la ma - ma, ___ ma - ma thu - la ma - ma, ___ ma - ma don't you cry,

D *mp* 22 23 24

S.1 Ma-ma thu-la ma - ma ma-ma thu-la ma - ma ma-ma thu-la ma - ma

S.2 *mp* Thu - la, thu-la ma - ma thu - la, thu-la ma - ma thu - la, thu-la ma - ma

A.1 — ma-ma don't you cry, — bet-ter by_ and by, — ma-ma don't you cry, —

A.2 — ma-ma don't you cry, — bet-ter by_ and by, — ma-ma don't you cry, —

25 *p* 26 27

S.1 — ma-ma don't you cry, — ma-ma don't you cry, — ma-ma don't you cry, —

S.2 *p* thu-la ma-ma, thu-la ma-ma, thu-la ma-ma,

A.1 *p* — ma-ma don't you cry, — ma-ma don't you cry, — ma-ma don't you cry, —

A.2 *p* — *p* thu-la ma - ma. — thu-la ma - ma. —

28 29 30

S.1 — ma-ma don't you cry. —

S.2 *mp* thu - la ma-ma. Thu - la, thu-la ma-ma — thu - la, thu - la ma-ma

A.1 — ma-ma don't you cry. —

A.2 — thu - la ma - ma. —

4

31 32 33 *mp*

S.1 Thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_

S.2 thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la. Thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_

A.1 *mp* Thu - la, ma - ma_

A.2 *mp* Oh, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la ma - ma_

34 35 36

S.1, 2 — thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la, thu - la ma - ma_ thu la.

A.1 — thu - la, ma - ma_ thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la.

A.2 — thu - la ma - ma_ thu - la ma - ma. Lu lu lu lu_

37 38 39 40 *poco rit.*

S.1, 2 Lu lu lu lu lu lu_ lu lu, lu lu lu lu lu lu lu lu lu lu_ lu lu.

A.1 Lu lu_ lu lu_ lu lu_ lu lu_ lu lu_ lu lu_ lu lu_

A.2 — lu lu lu lu_ lu lu lu lu_ lu lu lu lu lu.

I was first taught this beautiful lullaby by a colleague with a strong interest in South African choral music. I have learned that the song is not only a lullaby for babies, but a soothing song for mothers as well, hence the lyrics "hush, mother, don't cry." And because many of these songs have more than one meaning, it can also be interpreted as a song for mothers whose children have been taken away to prison during the time of apartheid.

Stylistically, singers should enjoy the gentle lilt of the song, and be expressive with the swells in dynamics, glissandi, and scoops (both indicated and intuited) that give the song its life. Thula Mama should be sung more in a folk song style than in a classical style. "Thula" means, "Hush." Pronounced: "Too-la."

