

Thixo Onothando  
arr. Barrett

SATB, unaccompanied

WW1705

# Thixo Onothando

SATB with Three Solos

Michael Barrett, arranger



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## About the Work

In 2015, I was invited to give workshops to community choirs in the Mpumalanga Province which is situated on the Eastern border of South Africa. A school choir sang this very simple religious hymn, and I remember being truly moved by their performance. I approached these learners and asked them to teach me this beautiful melody. I transcribed it, and a year later, *Thixo Onothando* was arranged for and performed by the Tuks Camerata at the South African University Choir Competition called Varsity Sing.

*Thixo Onothando* is a popular isiXhosa hymn performed throughout churches in South Africa. It is an uplifting song of praise that is led by a group of soloists who portray the role of religious leaders. In traditional South African music, it is appropriate to add movement to songs, be they sacred or secular. The University of Pretoria (Tuks) Camerata recorded this version during a national competition in 2016. For some ideas on what moves to incorporate, be sure to watch their video on Youtube.

### A note on pronunciation:

- All vowels are pure and pronounced the same as in Latin.
- The “x” in *Thixo* contains a lateral click sound. This is achieved by placing the tip of the tongue against the hard palate (as if producing an “n” sound). Place one side of the tongue against the side of the jaw and withdraw sharply, keeping the tip of the tongue against the hard palate. This sound resembles that of spurring on a horse.
- In this piece, all “h’s” are silent, except for the borrowed English word “Hosanna”.

### Thixo Onothando

Thixo onothando, ndimi phambi kwakho	<i>God of love, I stand before thee</i>
Thixo onothando, ndiph’ uthando ndifakaze ngawe.	<i>God of love, give me love so I may testify about you.</i>
Hosanna phezulu, hosann’ enyangweni	<i>Hossana above, hosanna in the highest.</i>
Thixo ndila namhla, hosanna.	<i>God I am here today, hosanna.</i>

*\*For a spoken and IPA pronunciation guide and video, visit [waltonmusic.com](http://waltonmusic.com), search WW1705.*

### About the Arranger

Michael Joseph Barrett is the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Pretoria (South Africa), the conductor of the renowned Tuks Camerata and a Senior Lecturer in Choral Conducting in the Department of Music. His compositions and arrangements have been performed throughout the world, and his arrangements of traditional South African songs are especially popular. Michael has won many choir competitions and regularly adjudicates and presents workshops on South African Music both nationally and abroad. The University of Pretoria (Tuks) Camerata is one of South Africa’s finest choral ensembles, having won many accolades and awards over the years. Michael has been the conductor of the Tuks Camerata since 2013 and he regularly attends symposia and conferences all over the world to remain at the forefront of choral music education.

Duration: Approx. 3:00

for the Tuks Camerata

# Thixo Onothando

## God of Love

SATB with Three Solos

Traditional isiXhosa  
 Arranged by  
 MICHAEL BARRETT (b. 1983)

Joyful, unhurried (♩ = ca. 70)

1. S
2. SA
3. SAT
4. SATB

*mf*

Soprano  
Alto

Thi - xo o - no - than - do, ndi - mi pham - bi kwa - kho.

Tenor  
Bass

Thi - xo o - no - than - do, ndi - mi pham - bi kwa - kho.

3

Thi - xo o - no - than - do, ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we.

Thi - xo o - no - than - do, ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we.



na. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na phe-zu - lu Ho - sann' en - ya-ngwe-ni

Ho - san - na phe-zu - lu Ho - sann' en - ya-ngwe-ni

na. Ho - san -

Thi - xo o - no - than - do, ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we.

Thi - xo o - no - than - do, ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we.

Solo 1 Ho - san - na. Ho - san -

Solo 2 Ho - san - na. Ho -

Solo 3 Ho - san - na.

SA ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we. tu tu tu tu tu tu tu tu

TB ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we. tu tu tu tu tu tu tu tu



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1.

na. Ho - san -

san - na. Ho -

Ho-san - na.

Thi - xo o - no - than - do, ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we.

Thi - xo o - no - than - do, ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we.

25

2.

Thi - xo ndi - la nam - hla. Thi - xo ndi -

Thi - xo ndi - la nam - hla. Thi - xo ndi -

Thi - xo ndi - la nam - hla. Thi - xo ndi -

ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we. Thi - xo o - no - than - do,

ndi - ph' u - than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we. Thi - xo o - no - than - do,

**molto allargando**

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la nam - hla. Thi - xo ndi - la nam - hla. \_\_\_\_\_

la nam - hla. Thi - xo ndi - la nam - hla. \_\_\_\_\_

la nam - hla. Thi - xo ndi - la nam - hla. \_\_\_\_\_

ndi - mi pham-bi kwa-kho. Thi - xo o - no-than-do,

ndi - mi pham-bi kwa-kho. Thi - xo o - no-than-do, \_\_\_\_\_

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Ho - san - na. \_\_\_\_\_

Ho - san - na. \_\_\_\_\_

Ho - san - na. \_\_\_\_\_

ndi - ph'u-than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we. \_\_\_\_\_

ndi - ph'u-than - do ndi - fa - ka - ze nga - we. \_\_\_\_\_

August 2016