

Sawabona (I See You)

*With gratitude to my friend Ciona Rouse
who reminded me of these words*

Music by: Jason Shelton

Gently ♩=60

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Gently' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first four measures of the piece, with the vocal line starting on the first measure. The second system starts at measure 5 and contains the next four measures. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. The vocal line is written in a simple, clear style, with lyrics placed below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Sa-wa - bo - na, sa-wa - bo - na, sa-wa - bo - na, si - kho - na. Sa-wa- bo - na, sa-wa - bo - na, si - kho - na, u - bun - tu. (u - bun - tu)'. The score ends with a double bar line at the end of the second system.

"Sawabona" is a traditional Zulu greeting, roughly translated as "I see you." The traditional response is "sikhona," which means "I am here." This greeting and response communicates the essential connectedness of all beings, succinctly captured by the Zulu word "ubuntu" - "I am because we are."

I would suggest the accompanist begin by playing the vocal parts, and shift to the written accompaniment once everyone is singing strongly. Repeat as needed, growing in strength and commitment with each iteration.