

Ithemba Lami - South African church chorus in the Xhosa language that gained popularity in the 1970's and is still widely sung at all kinds of gatherings. *"My faith will get me to heaven"*.

The song can be understood literally or metaphorically. During the anti-apartheid era, the word "heaven" represented victory in the struggle for freedom. Published in *The Folk Rhythm*, vol. 1. Northern Harmony Publishing Company.

The song is essentially one verse of long phrases punctuated by different voices echoing the opening words of the first two phrases. A variation is to repeat the third phrase in a different rhythm before the lead returns to the beginning.

Call: I__ ithemba la-a-a-mi

Response: Ithe__mba la-a-mi, ndonyu__ ndonyuka nalo

Ma ndi nge__ne_endumi_swe-e-ni

(Mandingene endumi sweni, oh)