Disc 2

4 Pronunciation guide

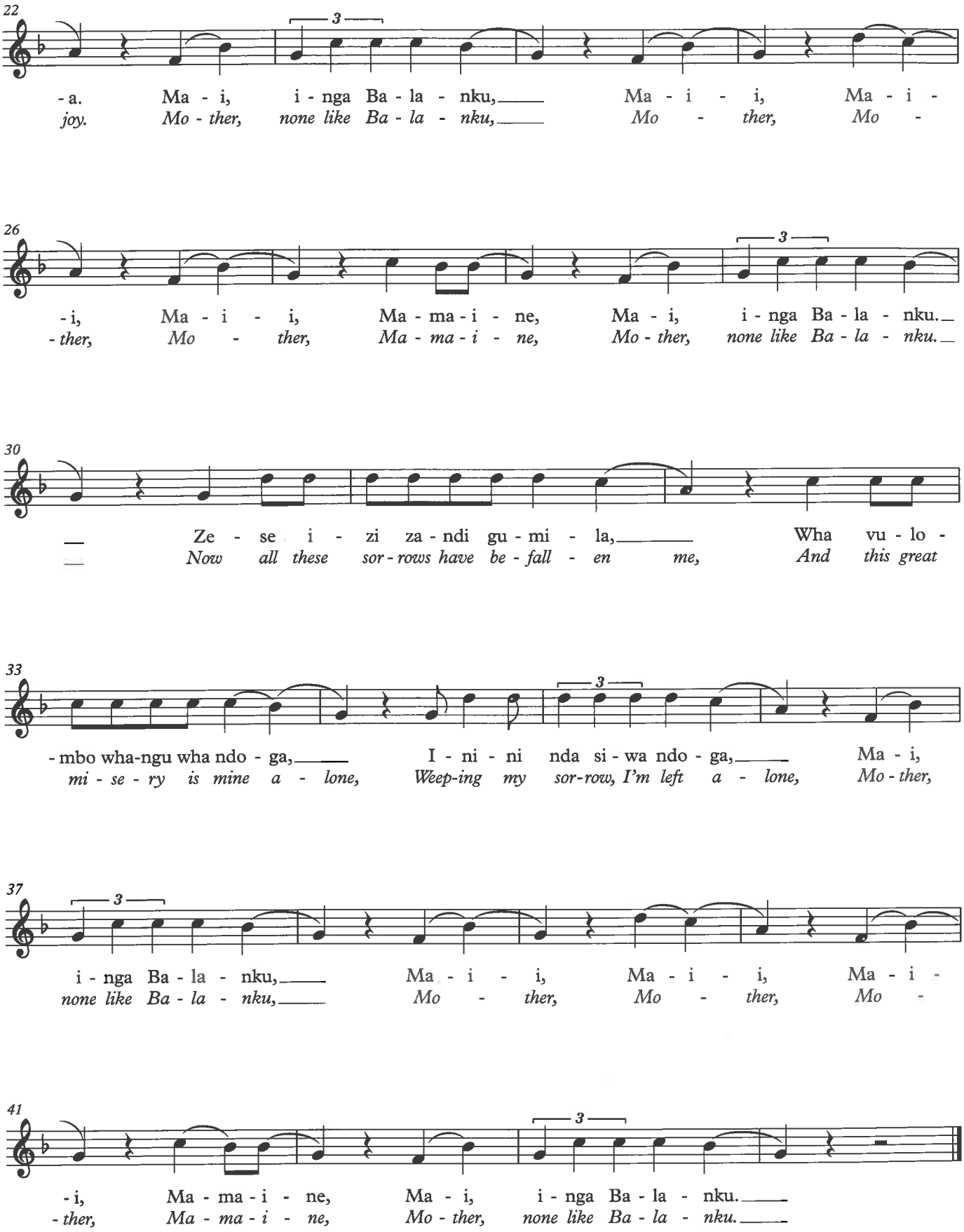
Chili lo

Lament

Portuguese East Africa



© 2008 by The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music



This lament, in the Chindau language, was sung by the widow of a man named Bala'nku, who lived at the mouth of the Zambezi river. The word 'mai' ('mother') doesn't mean the singer's mother, but is used as an exclamation to refer to a generic human mother. Being a lament, it should be sung slowly, softly and sadly, with smooth glides (*portamento*) on the falling 3rds at the ends of phrases and on other phrases marked with a slur.

Portuguese East Africa consisted of several colonies which now form the Republic of Mozambique.