

# USIKU MWEMA

## Goodnight

2-part / opt 3-part accompanied with opt Percussion

Christian “Ceej” Oliver

*BriLee Music*  
**Part-by-Part**



Free MP3 rehearsal and accompaniments  
Go to: [www.BriLeeMusic.com](http://www.BriLeeMusic.com)

Range:



Language: Swahili & English  
Use: General  
Time: Approx. 2:49  
\*Difficulty: Moderate

*BriLee Music*  
*the Voice of Choral Music*

## Note to the Performer:

Begin singing this piece as if you are in the distance. The A-section should sound like a lullaby being sung by someone trying to put a small child to sleep. The mood intensifies with the addition of the drums during the “Lala salama” text, when the child says goodnight to his/her parents.

Next, the “Wakati” is a call-and-response. A small child asks: “When will I see you again” and the parent replies “I will see you tomorrow.”

I hope all of you have fun with the piece and enjoy singing it as much as I enjoyed composing it!

Remember to always have fun with music and *KEEP SINGING!*

## Note to Conductor

Students could make their own rain sticks and shakers for the parts calling for them. The shakers and rain sticks do not have to be exactly in time; it was my intention that the students feel spontaneous like the animals in the rain forest.

### Swahili

Kwenda Kulala moja  
*Kwehn-dah Koo-lah-lah moh-jah*

Yangu mpendwa  
*Yahn-goo mm-pehn-dwah*

Lala Salama  
*Lah-lah Sah-lah-mah*

Usiku Mwema  
*Oo-see-koo Mm-weh-ma*

Wakati Utakuja tena  
*Wah-kah-tee Oo-tah-koo-jah teh-nah*

Nitakuja Kesho  
*Nee-tah-koo-jah keh-shoh*

### English

Go to sleep my dear one

Safe sleeping / Sleep well

Goodnight

When will you come again?

I will come tomorrow

## About the Composer

Christian J. “Ceej” Oliver - (b.1994) is a Syracuse, New York native, who is currently studying at Long Island University-Post. He is pursuing a degree in Music Education with a focus in voice and piano, with a minor in composition. He currently studies voice with Ruth Golden, piano with Stephanie Watt, and composition with Carl Strommen. Several of his compositions have premiered in the Syracuse / Long Island area and he received an honorable mention in the NYSSMA (New York State School of Music Association) “Call of Composition”. He is also the founder and artistic director of *Kusikia Sisi: Voices for a Cause*, a choir composed of high school and college students committed to refining their choral skills while helping the community through various projects during the summer months.



4  
9

*accel.*

*mf*

*mf*

m-pen - dwa yan-gu

m-pen - dwa yan-gu

m-pen - dwa yan-gu

m-pen - dwa yan-gu

m-pen - dwa yan-gu

m-pen - dwa yan-gu

m-pen - dwa yan-gu

m-pen - dwa yan-gu

*accel.*

(Piano begins) *mp*

*mf*

1st time: Alto only

2nd time: Tutti

*f*

m-pen - dwa \_\_\_\_\_

La - la sa - la - ma

m-pen - dwa \_\_\_\_\_

La - la sa - la - ma

$\text{♩} = 120$

$\text{♩} = 120$

17

La - la La - la sa - la - ma u - si - ku m - we - ma

La - la sa - la - ma La - la sa - la - ma u - si - ku m - we - ma

20

u - si - ku m - we - ma wa - ka - ti u - ta - ku - ja

u - si - ku m - we - ma wa - ka - ti u - ta - ku - ja te - na



wa-ka-ti u-ta - ku-ja Ni-ta - ku - ja ke - sho

wa-ka - ti u - ta - ku-ja te - na ni - ta - ku - ja

This block contains the musical notation for measures 23 through 25. It features a vocal melody in the upper staff with lyrics, a piano accompaniment in the middle staves, and a grand piano section at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). A large red watermark is visible across the page.



ni-ta - ku - ja ke - sho ni-ta - ku - ja ke - sho ni-ta - ku - ja ke - sho

ni - ta - ku - ja ni - ta - ku - ja ni - ta - ku - ja

This block contains the musical notation for measures 26 through 28. It continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment from the previous block. The key signature remains one sharp (F#). A large red watermark is visible across the page.

29

*mp*

Kwen-da ku - la - la mo - mo - ja yan - gu \_

*mp*

Kwen-da ku - la - la mo - ja yan - gu \_

*mp**mp**mp**mp*

32

yan - gu \_ m - pen - dwa Kwen-da ku - la - la

\_ m - pen - dwa \_

Kwen-da ku - la - la mo -

Quinto Slap

*mp*

La — mo - ja yan-gu m-pen - dwa yan-gu m - pen - dwa yan-gu

ja yan - gu mpen-dwa yan - gu mpen-dwa yan -

Tumba

*p* *mf* *p* *mf*

*p* *mf*

m - pen - dwa yan-gu m - pen - dwa yan-gu m - pen - dwa

gu mpen - dwa yan - gu mpen - dwa yan - gu mpen - dwa

*f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

*mf* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*





10

48

wa-ka - ti u - ta - ku - ja te - na wa-ka - ti u - ta - ku - ja

wa-ka-ti u-ta - ku-ja

51

te - na Ni-ta - ku - ja ke - sho ni-ta - ku - ja ke - sho

wa-ka-ti u-ta - ku-ja ni - ta - ku - ja ni - ta - ku - ja

54

(Hand Claps 2 + 4)

ni-ta - ku - ja ke - sho ni-ta - ku - ja ke - sho La - la sa - la - ma

ni - ta - ku - ja ni - ta - ku - ja La - la sa - la - ma

(Hand Claps 2 + 4)

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57

la - la sa - la - ma La - la sa - la - ma u - si-ku m - we - ma

La - la sa - la - ma La - la sa - la - ma u - si-ku m - we - ma

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u - si-ku m - we - - ma

*mp* Opt. 3 Part

u - si-ku m - we - - ma u - si-ku m - we - - ma u - si-ku m - we - - ma

*mp* *mf* *mf* *mf*

*mp* *mf*

*mp* *mf*

63

*f* *sfz*

u - si-ku m - we - - ma Now it's time to go to bed! —

*f* *sfz*

u - si-ku m - we - - ma Now it's time\_ to go to bed! —

*f* *f* *f* *f*

*f*

**Percussion**  
(Shekere, Bongo Drums,  
Conga Drums, Wood Blocks)

Commissioned by LIU Post Summer Choir; Elaine Gates, Director

**Usiku Mwema**  
(Goodnight)

for Two-part, Optional Three-part Voices  
with Piano and Optional Percussion

Words and Music by  
**CHRISTIAN “CEEJ” OLIVER**

Swahili

$\text{♩} = 84$

Shekere

Bongo Drums

Conga Drums

Wood Blocks

9

2

accel.

$\text{♩} = 120$

16

*f*

21

28

*mp*

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32

Quinto Slap

Tumba

38

*mf*

*mf*

*f*

43

*mf*

*mf*

*f*

48

*mf*

*mf*

*f*

56

*mf*

*mf*

*f*

61

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

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