

# Amavolovolo – South Africa Zulu

Short-hand notes by Rosemarie Keough      rosemarie@keough-art.com  
 Refer to videos and other fulsome dance notes for complete understanding

Amavolovolo South Africa

solodance, all facing same way  
 Music 4/4 12 beat introduction  
 start beat 3 of vocals.

Start Right Foot Dance in place

**A**  $\begin{matrix} \uparrow & \downarrow \\ R & L \\ \downarrow & \uparrow \\ L & R \end{matrix} \} 8x = 2 \text{ phrases}$   
 loose fists  
 arms up going down  
 hip forward  
 with R foot


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**Chorus - Repeat 2X**  
 weight on Left R touch  $\rightarrow 2$   
 weight on Right L touch  $\uparrow 2$   
 together arms at chest fists  
 together  
 with Right arm raised, hand making a gun

**Basic**  $\begin{matrix} \uparrow & \downarrow \\ R & L \\ \downarrow & \uparrow \\ L & R \end{matrix}$


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**B** March in Place  $\begin{matrix} \uparrow & \downarrow \\ R & L \\ \downarrow & \uparrow \\ L & R \end{matrix} \} 8x = 2 \text{ phrases}$   
 arms to R to L, pointer finger extended

**Chorus**  - continued over

$\begin{matrix} 12 & 3 & 4 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ R & L & L \\ S & \& \& \\ \text{stamp} & \text{stamp} & \text{stamp} \end{matrix} \} 8x = 2 \text{ phrases}$

arms extend forward + horizontally rotate <sup>ccw</sup> as though stirring a big pot with a big paddle

**Chorus** 

**Ending** - Raising arms from sides, straight out + overhead clap on last beat of music.

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Amavolovolo = Revolvers words are in contrast to happy upbeat melody & rhythm - jest to white police - on fear of birds  
 Ngeke siye Kwamashu  
 Sesaba amavolovolo we Ma volovolo

We will not go to Kwamashu  
 We are afraid Mother, of the revolvers

Kwamashu, established 1959 as a segregated Black community for labourers commuting daily to Durban 19km distant, mostly young males. Segregation had roots in a horrific rampage of Blacks against Browns Indians in 1948 in Durban. Kwamashu is the 1st Township created. This Zulu song, now traditional + played at weddings + public gatherings for celebration of good times today, had been an anti-apartheid anthem a bride <sup>1) true fear to enter township by</sup> ~~2) in~~ <sup>in</sup> just about white police



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## Amavolovolo

- Additional Verse if music is extended

or Energetic substitute for Verse 3\*

D	Beat 1	Beat 2	Beat 3	Beat 4
	Lift R with bent Knee + clap behind R calf	Lift L with bent Knee + clap behind L calf	same as Beat 1	Lift L heel behind R calf + slap L heel with R hand

4 X

\* learned from Lorraine Sibanda  
 a Shana of Zimbabwe, divorced  
 from a Ndebele (arranged marriage,  
 tribal conflict) Ndebele are  
 linguistically related to Zulus,  
 and Amavolovolo has come from  
 South Africa to Zimbabwe.  
 Younger generation prefers the

energetic verse dance steps  
 which Lorraine taught us.  
 These are akin to the Zulu  
 Gumboot dances.

Also, another difference,  
 for the chorus, in lieu of  
 4 pistol shots, the arms, both  
 are raised overhead + wrists  
 rotate, more for joy.

Lorraine<sup>+</sup> said original  
 words, joyous melody + dance  
 was a coping mechanism  
 for young brides. Then  
 changed to be the antiprismatic  
 anthem, + now a  
 celebration + that things  
 have changed for the better.

+ Spa Team, MSV Wind Star  
 Ocean Crossing + Mediterranean April 2022

