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NGQOKO THROAT SINGING:
THE SEARCH FOR AN EFFECTIVE MUSICAL NOTATION

By

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ABSTRACT

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This report forms part of the output of a research team investigating the phenomenon of overtone singing as practiced by the women of the Ngqoko Women's Ensemble in the village of Ngqoko outside the town of Lady Frere in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. This essay examines various systems of musical notation in terms of their possible application in the transcription process of overtone singing as found amongst these women. A selection of their music is transcribed using the formulated notational systems and the effectiveness of these systems is compared. A recommendation as to which system of notation is most effective for documenting this type of music is made. Utilising the soundworld of the Ngqoko recordings, an original piece of music is composed as part of this submission.