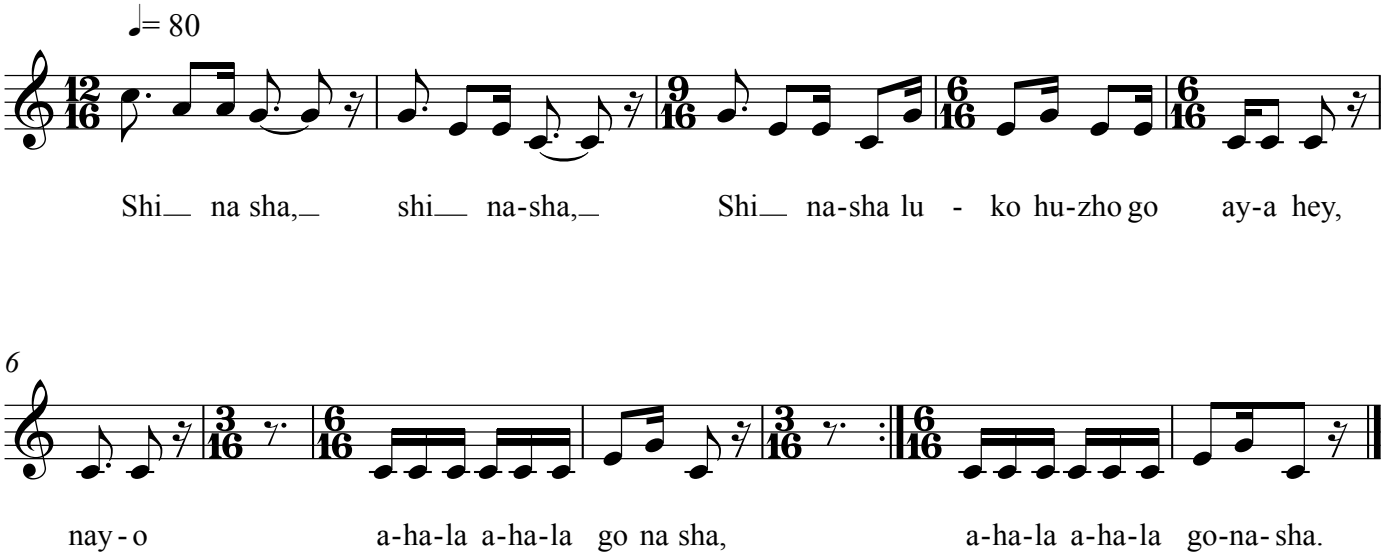
Shi Naa-sha

Traditonal Dine Walking Song



This song of the Diné people (dubbed "Navajo" by Spanish invaders) was composed in 1868, when survivors were released after four years internment at Fort Sumner, New Mexico and were walking home to Mount Taylor, NM, a distance of about 240 miles. The lyrics express their joy and gratitude at finally seeing their homeland again after years of starvation, illness, grief and loss in captivity.

If you get an opportunity, sing this song while walking through the forest carrying a child or a heavy pack, and remember that they walked for many days looking ahead to their sacred mountain as they sang. The rhythm follows the natural pace of human footsteps.

I am going in freedom,
I am going in beauty all around me
I am going, I am going in beauty
It is around me