

Onse Vader

Phonetic transcription by Charlotte Botha

Ons Vader wat woon in die Hemel

[ons fa:dər vat vo:ən ən di he:əməl]

Geheilig sy U naam.

[xəhə:ləx sə: y na:m]

Laat U ryk kom, U wil geskied.

[la:t y rə:c kom y vəl xəskit]

Soos in die hemel so ook op die aarde.

[so:əs ən di he:əməl so: o:c op di a:rdə]

Gee ons vandag ons daaglikse brood.

[xe: ons fandax ons da:xsə bro:t]

En vergeef ons al ons skulde, net soos ons vergewe

[ən fərxe:f ons al ons skoəldə net so:əs ons fərxe:və]

Die wat teen ons sondig.

[di vat te:ən ons sondəx]

Laat kom ons nie in die versoeking,

[la:t kom ons ni ən di fərsukən]

Maar verlos ons van die bose.

[ma:r fərlos ons fan di bo:sə]

Van U is die ryk en die sterkte en die ere.

[fan y əs di rə:c ən di stərctə ən di e:rə]

Vir ewig en ewig

[fər e:vəx ən e:vəx]

Amen

[amən]

Some quick general tips for Afrikaans diction in singing

In Afrikaans, all /t/ sounds are dry and not aspirated as in the /t/ sounds in English. Good examples of non-aspirated /t/ sounds, are those found in the Finnish language.

In Afrikaans, the ach-Laut /x/ is similar to the ach-Laut used in Scottish.

In order to successfully produce the somewhat tricky Afrikaans diphthongs ee, oo, and y, one needs to remain on the first vowel sound of the diphthong for as long as possible, then switch to an Off-glide /^ə/ or /ⁱ/ as late as possible at the end of the diphthong. This can be found in the Afrikaans word gee which should be pronounced [xe:^ə], therefore moving from a German /e/ sound to a light (high palatal position) schwa. Avoid the [xiə] and especially [xia]. The Afrikaans y is pronounced /ə:ⁱ/.

The /r/ sound in Afrikaans is rolled strongly when spoken, but an Italian /r/ suffices for singing.

Since the /a/ sound is contentious and not always standardised in phonetic sources, I will describe it for Afrikaans. It is much darker than in the Italian word “pasta”. Imagine a very British English rendition of the word “father”. Use this /a/ sound throughout in Afrikaans.

In Afrikaans, // sounds are mostly light and produced in the front of the mouth as in the first // sound of the British English word “little”, rather than the // in “feel”.

Good luck!