

Thula Baba

WITH NELLY · SOUTH AFRICA

KEY: C

~66 BPM

GUITAR & PIANO

PLAY IT

Chords & Lyrics

Verse 1

C F C
Thula thula, thula baba,
F C G7
Thula sana, ungakhali.
(Hush, hush, hush now baby — hush, my darling, don't you cry.)
C F C
Sweet one, hush now, don't you cry,
F C G7
Papa's coming by and by.

Verse 2

C F C
Kukh'inkanyezi, zihol' ubaba,
F C G7
Zikukhanyisela indlela yokuya khaya.
(There's a star that guides daddy home, lighting the path back to us.)
C F C
There's a star up in the sky,
F C G7
Lighting papa's way home tonight.

GOOD TO KNOW

Thula Baba is one of the best-loved lullabies of the Zulu people of South Africa. A mother sings it to soothe her child while waiting for a loved one to return home — a bright star becomes a gentle, comforting guide leading them safely back.

Traditional Zulu lullaby, passed down through oral tradition. English lines are a singable adaptation for this arrangement, not a literal translation.