

SIMPLE GIFTS

Three-Part Mixed Voices with Piano

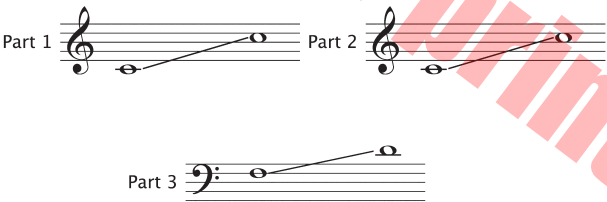
Traditional Shaker Hymn
Arranged by Steve Kupferschmid

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part



Free MP3 rehearsal and accompaniments
Go to: www.BriLeeMusic.com

Ranges:



Language: English
Use: General/Festival
Time: Approx. 2:27
*Difficulty: Moderate

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Note from the Arranger

Simple Gifts was composed by Joseph Brackett in 1848. He was a member of a Shaker community in Gorham, Maine. The Shakers were Christians who valued simplicity in their way of life, their music, and the finely crafted furniture they made. The song was not widely known outside Shaker communities until Aaron Copland used it in his ballet *Appalachian Spring*, which was first performed in 1944. Since then it has become a standard for both vocal and instrumental ensembles.

This arrangement is appropriately simple, with limited ranges for developing voices. The unison notes at the beginning of phrases should help all the parts sing in tune and blend. The choir may sing *a cappella* or with piano in mm. 5 – 8, and again in mm. 47 – 50. The Shakers sometimes danced to the music, “turning” so that each dancer would return to his or her starting position, or, “come ‘round right.”

S.K.

About the Arranger

Steve Kupferschmid began his professional career as a trombonist. He worked for many years as a choral editor at Shawnee Press before moving to J. W. Pepper, where he is currently employed as school choral catalog editor. His original choral pieces and arrangements are listed in several publisher catalogs.

Simple Gifts

for Three-Part Mixed Voices and Piano

3

Traditional Shaker Hymn
Arranged by Steve Kupferschmid

Moderately ♩ = 92

Parts 1
and 2

Part 3

Piano

Moderately ♩ = 92

mf

mf

mf

mf

(Piano optional or for rehearsal only)

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7 loo loo loo loo *mp* unis.

loo loo loo 'Tis the gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the

loo loo loo loo loo loo

(Play)

mp *p*

10 gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and *mp*

And

13 when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'twill be in the val-ley of

when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'twill be in the val-ley of

26

mf

'Tis the gift to be lov-ing, 'tis the best gift of all; like a

mf

'Tis the gift to be lov-ing, 'tis the best gift of all; like a

mp

29

qui - et rain it bless-es where it falls. And with_ our_ love we will

qui - et rain it bless-es where it falls. And with_ our_ love we will

32

tru - ly be-lieve, 'tis bet - ter to give than it is to re-ceive.

tru - ly be-lieve, 'tis bet - ter to give than it is to re-ceive.

35

When true sim - plic - i - ty is gained, to bow and to bend we —

38

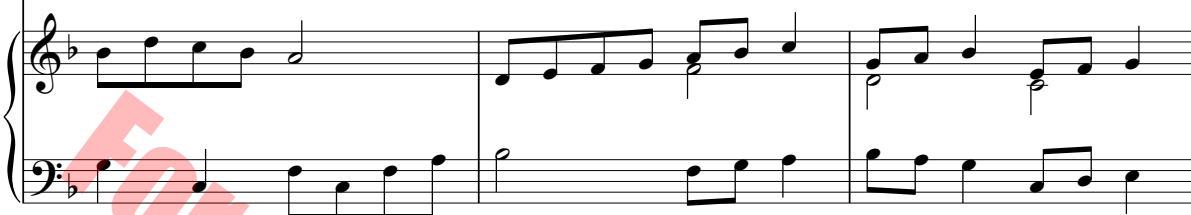
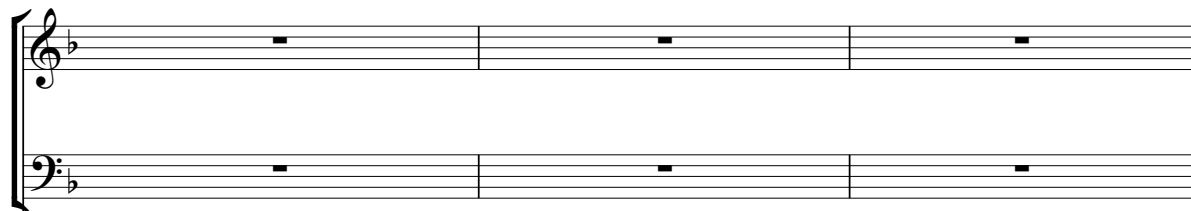
To turn, turn will be our de-light, till by
shan't be a-shamed. To turn, turn will be our de-light, till by

41

turn - ing, turn - ing we come 'round right.
turn - ing, turn - ing we come 'round right.

mf

44



47 *mf* Loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo *rit.* loo loo loo

mf Loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo

Loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo loo

mf (piano optional or for rehearsal only)

rit.

50 loo *mp* 'Tis the gift.

loo *mp* 'Tis the gift.

(Play) *mp*

rit.

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