

THREE FOLK SONG ARRANGEMENTS

SSA Unaccompanied

1. THE WATER IS WIDE
2. THE ASH GROVE
3. SIMPLE GIFTS

Martin Chambers
(2012)
Revised 2017

SIMPLE GIFTS

Simple Gifts was written by Shaker Elder Joseph Brackett, Jr. in 1848. It was first published in ***The Gift to be Simple: Shaker Rituals and Songs***.

It became well known however through Aaron Copeland's ***Appalachian Spring*** and his first set of ***Old American Songs*** for voice and piano.

Though often classified as a Shaker hymn or as a work song, it is better classified as a dance song.

SIMPLE GIFTS

Martin Chambers
b. 1944

♩ = 98

Soprano I

Soprano II

Alto

Piano
for reh. only

u: - - - - - 'Tis the

u: - - - - -

u: - - - - - a: -

Sop I

Sop II

Alto

Pno

6

gift to be sim - ple, 'Tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down

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12

Sop I
where we ought to be, And when we find our - selves in the place just right, It will

Sop II

Alto
a: - - - - -

Pno

18

Sop I
be in the val - ley of love and de - light. When true sim -

Sop II

Alto
a: - - - - -

Pno

mf

mp

mp

24

Sop I
pli - cit - y is gained, to bow and to bend, we shan't be a - shamed To

Sop II
a: -

Alto
a: -

Pno

30

Sop I
turn, turn, will be our de - light, 'Til by turn - ing, turn - ing, we *broaden .*

Sop II
we

Alto
we

Pno
broaden .

36

Sop I
come round right. u: - - - - u: u:

Sop II
come round right. u: - - - - u: u:

Alto
come round right. u: - - - - u: u'

Pno

42

Sop I
u: - *mf* a: - - - -

Sop II
u: - *f* 'Tis the gift to be sim - ple, 'Tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the

Alto
u: - *mf* a: - - - -

Pno

48

Sop I

Sop II

Alto

Pno

gift to come down where we ought to be, And when we find our - selves in the

a: - - - - -

54

Sop I

Sop II

Alto

Pno

place just right, It will be in the val - ley of love and de - light.

60 *f*

Sop I
When true sim - pli - cit - y is gained, to bow and to

Sop II
f
When true sim - pli - cit - y is

Alto
f
When

Pno
f

66

Sop I
bend, we shan't be a - shamed To turn, turn, will be our de -

Sop II
gained, to bow and to bend, we shan't be a - shamed To turn,

Alto
true sim - pli - cit - y is gained, to bow and to bend, we shan't be a -

Pno

72

Sop I
light, 'Til by turn - - - ing, — turn - - - ing, —

Sop II
turn, will be our de - light, 'Til by turn - - - ing, —

Alto
shamed To turn, turn, will be our de - light, 'Til by

Pno

77

Sop I
turn - ing, — turn - ing, we come round right.

Sop II
turn - ing, — turn - ing, we come round right.

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

Pno