

# THREE FOLK SONG ARRANGEMENTS

SATB 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

*mf*

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

*mp*

Piano  
for reh. only

6

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bass

Pno

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

12

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

Alto

Ten

Bass  
a: - - -

Pno

18

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

Alto  
a: - - -

Ten

Bass  
a: - - -

Pno

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

24

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

Alto

Ten

Bass

Pno

30

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

Alto  
we

Ten

Bass  
*broaden*

Pno  
*broaden*  
we

36

Sop  
come round right. u: - u:

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

Ten  
u: - - - - u:

Bass  
come round right. u: - - - - u:

Pno

42

Sop  
u: - *f* a: - - - - -

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

Ten  
u: - *mf* 'Tis the gift to be sim - ple, 'Tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the

Bass  
u: - a: - - - - -

Pno

*mf*

48

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bass

Pno

a: - - - - -

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

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

54

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bass

Pno

a: - - - - -

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

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

60 *f*

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

Alto  
*f*  
When true sim - pli - cit - y is

Ten  
*f*  
When

Bass

Pno

66

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

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

Ten  
8  
true sim - pli - cit - y is gained, to bow and to bend, we shan't be a -

Bass

Pno



72

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

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

Ten  
8  
shamed To turn, turn, will be our de - light, 'Til by

Bass

Pno

77

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

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

Ten  
8  
turn - ing, turn - ing, we come round right.

Bass  
turn - ing, — turn - ing, we come round right.

Pno