

# Simple Gifts

Vocal / Piano Duet

Arranged by Alden Hilton

The first system of the musical score for 'Simple Gifts' is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest for three measures, followed by a half note G4 and a quarter note A4 in the fourth measure. The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note melody in the right hand and a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand, primarily using whole and half notes.

'Tis the

The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has a whole rest in the first measure, then sings the lyrics 'gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the gift to be free 'Tis the gift to come down' across the remaining measures. The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic pattern, with the right hand playing eighth notes and the left hand providing harmonic support with whole and half notes.

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

The third system continues the composition. The vocal line has a whole rest in the first measure, then sings 'where we ought to be, And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill' across the remaining measures. The piano accompaniment continues with its characteristic eighth-note melody and harmonic accompaniment.

where we ought to be, And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill

The fourth system concludes the piece. The vocal line has a whole rest in the first measure, then sings 'be in the val-ley of love and de-light. When true sim-' across the remaining measures. The piano accompaniment continues until the end of the system, with the right hand playing eighth notes and the left hand providing harmonic support.

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

2  
14

pli-ci-ty is gain'd, To bow and to bend we shan't be a-sham'd, To

17

turn, turn will be our de-light, Till by turn-ing, turn-ing we

20

come 'round right.

24

29

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be true 'Tis the

33

gift to la - bor 'til the day is through, And when you find your-self in a

36

place so fine, 'Twill be in the cool of the birch and the pine. When true sim-

40

pli-ci-ty is gain'd, To bow and to bend we shan't be a-sham'd, To

43

turn, turn will be our de-light, Till by turn-ing, turn-ing we

46

come 'round right. 'Tis the gift to be joyful, 'tis the gift to be free 'Tis the

4  
50

gift, 'tis the gift, 'tis the simple gift to be, And when you find yourself filled with

This system contains measures 50, 51, and 52. The vocal line (treble clef) features a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) consists of a right hand with chords and single notes, and a left hand with a steady bass line of eighth notes.

pure de-light, The gift to be simple has led you a-right. When true sim-

This system contains measures 53, 54, 55, and 56. The vocal line continues the melody. The piano accompaniment features a more active right hand with eighth-note patterns in measures 55 and 56, while the left hand remains steady.

plicity is gain'd, To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd, To turn, turn will

This system contains measures 57, 58, 59, and 60. The vocal line continues. The piano accompaniment has a consistent eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a right hand with eighth-note chords.

61 rit. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
be our de-light, Till by turn-ing, turn-ing we come 'round right.

This system contains measures 61, 62, 63, and 64. Measure 61 is marked with a 'rit.' (ritardando) and a dashed line. The vocal line concludes with a long note in measure 64. The piano accompaniment features a right hand with eighth-note patterns and a left hand with a steady bass line.