

For the Brigham Young University Women's Chorus

## Simple Gifts

traditional Shaker hymn  
arr. Amy Dalton

**Cheerfully, with buoyance**  $\text{♩} = 60$

*mp*  
*unis.*

S 'Tis a gift to be sim-ple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down  
 S where we ought to be, and when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'twill  
 A and when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'twill

sop. 1 *p* when  
 be in the val-ley of love and de-light, *mf*  
 be in the val-ley of love and de-light, When true simp

true sim-ple-ci-ty is gained, *mp*  
 sop. 2 *mp* to bend we shan't be a-shamed, To  
 pli-ci-ty is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed

13 *cresc.* turn will be our de-light, 'til by turn-ing, turn-ing, we  
*cresc.* to turn will be our de-light, 'til by turn-ing, turn-ing, we  
*decrec.* *decrec.*

*poco rit.* *a tempo* 17 *div.*

come 'round right. Oo\_\_\_\_\_ Oo\_\_\_\_\_

*poco rit.* *a tempo* *mp* *unis.*

come 'round right. 'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a

Oo\_\_\_\_\_ Oo\_\_\_\_\_ Oo\_\_\_\_\_

gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the

23 Oo\_\_\_\_\_ *pp* *div.*

Oo\_\_\_\_\_ Oo\_\_\_\_\_ love and de -

place just right, 'Twill be in the val - ley of love, 'Tis a

25 *mf* *mp molto rit.*

S When true sim - pli - cit - y is gained Oo\_\_\_\_\_

S light \_\_\_\_\_ 'Tis a gift to come down *molto rit.*

A light \_\_\_\_\_ to be free *mp molto rit.*

A gift to be simple, 'tis a gift *mp molto rit.*

*div.* Oo\_\_\_\_\_

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be in the val - ley of love and de - light. *div.*

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

be in the val - ley of love and de - light. *div.*

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

### About the arranger:

Amy Dalton was born in Provo, Utah in 1967. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from Southern Utah University, and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from Brigham Young University. She conducted the BYU Women's Chorus singing her arrangement of *Simple Gifts* in *A Thanksgiving of American Folk Hymns*, a concert presentation by the BYU choirs and Philharmonic Orchestra which continues to be televised by public television stations nationwide. Amy currently pursues her extensive musical interests in Salt Lake City where she is a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

### About the song:

*Simple Gifts* is one of 12,000 songs composed by the Shakers during the middle of the nineteenth century. Thought to be written by Shaker Elder Joseph Brackett, the song was both an instruction for life as well as an instruction for dancing, the words "bowing," "bending," and "turning" indicating dance moves. In 1944 Aaron Copland popularized the melody in his ballet *Appalachian Spring*. In the seventies it was further popularized by Judy Collins who performed it nationwide. By the eighties, the song had become a part of American heritage; opera singers performed it at President Reagan's second and President Clinton's first inaugurations, and it was sung at President Nixon's funeral. The Music Educator's National Conference has named it among a handful of songs every American should know, ranked alongside the *National Anthem*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and *Home on the Range*.

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