

SIMPLE GIFTS FROM GOD

for S.A.B. or two-part mixed voices,*
accompanied, and optional C-Instrument**

Words by
J. PAUL WILLIAMS

Music by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Expressively (♩ = ca. 96 - 100)

FLUTE
(optional)

ACCOMP.

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system includes a Flute part (optional) and an Accompaniment part. The second system features a vocal line for Sopranos & Altos Unison, with lyrics 'Sim - ple things, sim - ple things,'. The third system features a vocal line for Baritones, with lyrics 'these are from the Lord. Sim - ple things,'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* and tempo/expressive markings like 'Expressively'. Measure numbers 4, 6, and 8 are indicated at the start of their respective lines.

* Two-part mixed voices should omit alto part. Also available in an edition for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 4293.

** Part for C-Instrument may be found on page 11.

Copyright © MCMXCIII by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

ALL VOICES

(p)

11

sim - ple things, these are gifts from God: The__

(flute tacet)

14

S. *mp unis.*

A. moon at night, the morn - ing light, the rain - bow in the

B. *mp*

17

rall. e dim.

p a tempo

sky O__ sim - ple things, sim - ple things,

rall. e dim.

p

a tempo

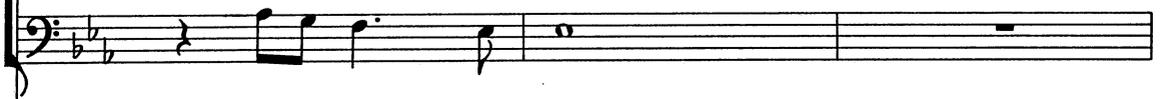
rall. e dim.

p

20



these are gifts from God.



(FLUTE)



mp

20

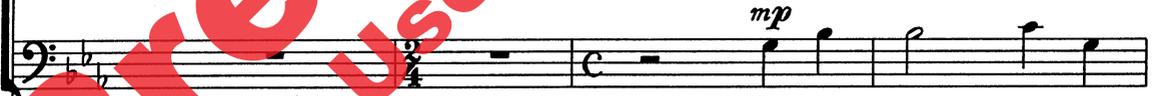


23

25



Sim - ple things, sim - ple things,



mp

Sim - ple things, sim - ple

(flute tacet)



23

25



mp

27

these are gifts from God. Sim - ple things,

things, gifts from God. Sim - ple

30

sim - ple things, these are gifts from God: A

things, these are gifts, gifts from God:

33 *mf*

ten - der smile, a lov - ing kiss, the laugh - ter of a

mf

36 *rall.* *unis.* *a tempo* *mp*

child. O sim - ple things, sim - ple things,

mp

Sim - ple things, sim - ple

(FLUTE)

rall.

36 *rall.* *a tempo* *mp*

39

these are gifts from God.

things, these are gifts from God.

mf

39

42 *molto legato* **mf** 43

*'Tis a gift to be sim-ple, 'tis a gift to be free; 'Tis a

mf

42 43 *mf*

45

gift to come down where you ought to be; And when you find your-self in the

45

48

place just right, t'will be in the val - ley of love and de-light.

mf

48

51

molto cresc. e rit.

f

54

molto rit.

55 Majestically ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80 - 84$)

Sim - ple things, sim - ple things,

f

'Tis a gift to be sim-ple, to be free;

f

'Tis a gift to be sim-ple, 'tis a gift to be free; 'Tis a

molto rit.

f

54

55 Majestically ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80 - 84$)

molto rit.

57

these are gifts from God.

gift to come down— where you ought to be; And

57

The first system of music consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It begins with a measure rest followed by the lyrics "these are gifts from God." The second staff is a bass line in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The third staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature, continuing the melody with a long note and the lyrics "gift to come down— where you ought to be; And". The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature, featuring chords and moving lines.

59

Sim - ple things, *unis.*

Sim - ple things, sim - ple things, sim - ple gifts of

when you find your self in the place just right, t'will be in the val - ley of

59

The second system of music consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. It begins with a measure rest followed by the lyrics "Sim - ple things, *unis.*". The second staff is a bass line in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The third staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature, continuing the melody with a long note and the lyrics "Sim - ple things, sim - ple things, sim - ple gifts of". The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature, featuring chords and moving lines.

63 Slightly slower

62 *poco rit.* *mf* *p*

love and de-light. These are gifts from

love and de-light.

Slightly slower

mf *poco rit.*

63 Slightly slower

62 *poco rit.* *mf* *mp*

65 *rit.*

God.

mp *rit. e dim.* *p*

65 *rit. e dim.* *p*



SIMPLE GIFTS FROM GOD

C - INSTRUMENT

Music by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Expressively (♩ = ca. 96 - 100)

4

11

20

24

40

44

51

57

61

65

p

mp

f

mf

molto rit.

mf poco rit.

rit. e dim.

p

6

3

14

6

25

7

33

6

43

3

55

Majestically (♩ = ca. 80 - 84)

2

63

Slightly slower

Simple Gifts from God is an anthem of general praise that is especially appropriate for harvest or Thanksgiving services and for Christmastide or Epiphany. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include 1 Samuel 2: 18-26, Psalms 111 and 136, Luke 2: 41-52, and Colossians 3: 12-17. One basic homiletical theme is praising God for the many gifts of Creation.

In rehearsal, strive for a gently flowing legato with sensitive text declamation. Instruct all voices to sing the melody softly from m. 6-21, listening for the underlying eighth note pulse generated by the accompaniment. Next, sing the melody on “noo,” pulsing eighth notes uniformly with the accompaniment and shaping each phrase dynamically. Continue this technique in the rehearsal of m. 55-62 as the melody pairs with the traditional Shaker tune until the two tunes are precisely aligned.

Joseph M. Martin, an accomplished pianist and widely published composer, is Minister of Music at Bee Cave Baptist Church in Bee Cave, Texas. With music degrees from Furman University and the University of Texas at Austin, he is the owner of MusiKids, a national preschool music education program.

J. Paul Williams is a free-lance lyricist living in Little Rock, Arkansas. His texts are widely published, appearing in church anthems by some of this generation's most pre-eminent composers. Formerly Associate Pastor of Music at Calvary Baptist Church in Little Rock, he earned music degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.