

SHAKER VARIATIONS

Simple Gifts

Arranged by Jim Palmer

INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

PROGRAM NOTES

Shaker Variations, by Jim Palmer, is a theme and variations on the familiar Shaker melody “Simple Gifts.” Each section has the opportunity to play interesting lines and a variety of styles. Rich harmonies will create a mature orchestral sound, and a strong ending makes this piece a great opener or closer to any concert or festival.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Pay close attention to the dynamics to ensure the melodic material is always balanced. Strive for a smooth legato contrast in measures 23–61. Start building in measures 81 and 82 to play measures 83–97 with maximum sound while maintaining a beautiful tone.

“Simple Gifts” is one of my all-time favorite tunes. I hope you and your students enjoy this theme and variations.

Note from the Editor

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at www.alfred.com/stringeditorial.

X
extended position

–
shift

’
bow lift/reset

(b), (#), (♯)
high or low fingerings

▮▮ or V V
hooked bowings

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Shaker Variations

Simple Gifts

FULL SCORE
Duration - 3:45

Arranged by Jim Palmer (ASCAP)

With spirit ♩ = 108

Violins I

Violins II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

ff

1 2 3 4

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

5 6 7 8



11

Score for measures 9-12, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass). The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measures 9 and 10 show the Violins and Viola playing a melodic line, while the Cello and String Bass play a rhythmic pattern. Measure 11 features a pizzicato (pizz.) instruction for the Viola and Cello, and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking. Measure 12 shows the Violins and Viola playing a melodic line, and the Cello and String Bass playing a rhythmic pattern.

Measures 9, 10, 11, and 12 are marked with measure numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12 respectively.

Score for measures 13-16, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass). The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measures 13 and 14 show the Violins and Viola playing a melodic line, while the Cello and String Bass play a rhythmic pattern. Measure 15 features a 4-measure rest for the Viola and Cello, and a 4-measure rest for the String Bass. Measure 16 shows the Violins and Viola playing a melodic line, and the Cello and String Bass playing a rhythmic pattern.

Measures 13, 14, 15, and 16 are marked with measure numbers 13, 14, 15, and 16 respectively.

Score for measures 17-20, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Measures 17-20:

- Vlns. I & II:** Play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes.
- Vla.:** Plays a continuous eighth-note pattern.
- Cello:** Plays a continuous eighth-note pattern.
- Str. Bass:** Provides a steady bass line with quarter and eighth notes.

Measure numbers 17, 18, 19, and 20 are indicated below the staves.

Score for measures 21-24, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Measures 21-24:

- Vlns. I & II:** Enter in measure 21 with a *p* (piano) dynamic. Vln I has a box around the measure number 21.
- Vla.:** Starts in measure 21 with *f* (forte) and *arco* (arco) markings. Includes a 4-measure rest in measure 23.
- Cello:** Starts in measure 21 with *f* (forte) and *arco* (arco) markings.
- Str. Bass:** Starts in measure 21 with *f* (forte) and *arco* (arco) markings.

Measure numbers 21, 22, 23, and 24 are indicated below the staves.

Score for measures 25-28, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 25-28 show a rhythmic pattern with accents and dynamic markings (*mf*).

Measures 25, 26, 27, and 28 are indicated below the staff.

Score for measures 29-33, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 29-33 show a rhythmic pattern with accents and dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*).

Measures 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 are indicated below the staff.

Score for measures 34-38, featuring Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measures 34-38 show a crescendo from *p* to *mf*. Vlns. II and Vla. enter in measure 34 with a *p* dynamic, marked with a *V* (Violino/Viola) symbol. Vlns. I and Cello are silent. Str. Bass enters in measure 34 with a *p* dynamic, also marked with a *V* symbol. All instruments reach *mf* by measure 36 and continue with a *mf* dynamic through measure 38.

Score for measures 39-43, featuring Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measures 39-43 show a crescendo from *p* to *cresc.*. Vlns. II and Vla. enter in measure 39 with a *p* dynamic. Vlns. I and Cello are silent. Str. Bass enters in measure 39 with a *p* dynamic. In measure 41, Vlns. II and Vla. have a *mp* dynamic marking. In measure 42, Vlns. I and Cello enter with a *p* dynamic, marked with a *V* symbol. All instruments reach *cresc.* by measure 43.

Score for measures 44 to 48, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 44-48 show a strong, rhythmic pattern in the Violins and Cello, marked *f* (forte). The Viola and String Bass parts are mostly rests, with some movement in the String Bass starting in measure 47.

Measures 44 45 46 47 48

Score for measures 49 to 53, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 49-53 show a transition to a softer, more melodic texture. The Violins and Cello play a melodic line, marked *p* (piano). The Viola and String Bass parts are mostly rests, with some movement in the String Bass starting in measure 51.

Measures 49 50 51 52 53

Score for measures 54 to 58, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Measures 54 and 55 include a *V* (Vibrato) marking. Measures 55, 56, 57, and 58 include a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking. The score is overlaid with a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal use requires purchase".

Score for measures 59 to 63, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Measures 59 and 60 include a *f* (forte) marking. Measures 60, 61, 62, and 63 include a *p* (piano) marking. Measures 61, 62, and 63 include a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking. Measures 59 and 60 include a *f* (forte) marking. Measures 60, 61, 62, and 63 include a *p* (piano) marking. Measures 61, 62, and 63 include a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking. The score is overlaid with a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal use requires purchase".

64

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

simile

64 65 66

Detailed description: This system contains measures 64, 65, and 66. Vlns. I and II play continuous sixteenth-note patterns. Vla. plays eighth-note patterns. Cello and Str. Bass play quarter notes. Dynamics include *f* and *simile*. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

67 68 69

Detailed description: This system contains measures 67, 68, and 69. Vlns. I and II play continuous sixteenth-note patterns. Vla. plays eighth-note patterns. Cello and Str. Bass play quarter notes. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

72

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

70 71 72

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

73 74 75

Score for measures 76-78, featuring Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Measures 76 and 77 show continuous sixteenth-note patterns across all instruments. Measure 78 features a change in the Str. Bass line, marked with a "-1" indicating a finger change.

76 77 78

Score for measures 79-82, featuring Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs and rests. Measures 79 and 80 show a change in the Vlns. I and II lines, marked with a "4" indicating a finger change. Measures 81 and 82 feature a change in the Str. Bass line, marked with a "-1" indicating a finger change. The score concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to A major (two sharps).

79 80 81 82

83 *marcato sostenuto*

Vlns. I *sim.*

Vlns. II *marcato sostenuto* *sim.*

Vla. *marcato sostenuto* *sim.* 4

Cello *ff marcato sostenuto* *sim.*

Str. Bass *ff marcato sostenuto* *sim.* -1

83 84 85 86

91

Vlns. I 4

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

87 88 89 90 91

Score for measures 92-96, featuring Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass.

Measures 92-96 show a steady rhythmic pattern with quarter notes and half notes, primarily in the treble clef staves (Violins I and II, Viola). The Cello and String Bass parts feature lower registers with quarter notes and half notes. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Measures 92-96:

- Violins I and II: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). Measures 92-93 show quarter notes, and measures 94-96 show half notes.
- Viola: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps. Measures 92-93 show quarter notes, and measures 94-96 show half notes.
- Cello: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps. Measures 92-93 show quarter notes, and measures 94-96 show half notes.
- String Bass: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps. Measures 92-93 show quarter notes, and measures 94-96 show half notes.

Score for measures 97-100, featuring Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass.

Measures 97-100 show a more complex rhythmic pattern with eighth notes and sixteenth notes, primarily in the treble clef staves (Violins I and II, Viola). The Cello and String Bass parts feature lower registers with quarter notes and half notes. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Measures 97-100:

- Violins I and II: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps. Measures 97-98 show eighth notes, and measures 99-100 show sixteenth notes.
- Viola: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps. Measures 97-98 show eighth notes, and measures 99-100 show sixteenth notes.
- Cello: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps. Measures 97-98 show quarter notes, and measures 99-100 show half notes.
- String Bass: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps. Measures 97-98 show quarter notes, and measures 99-100 show half notes.