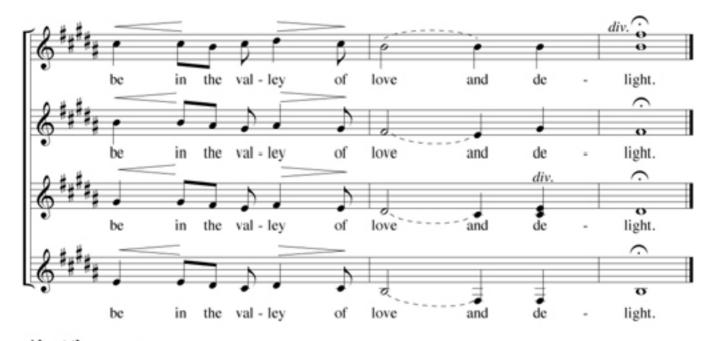
Simple Gifts





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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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