

Simple Gifts

2020-2021 GMEA Solo Excerpt: Grades 7-8

E♭ major: Low Basses

Joseph Brackett (1848)

arranged for GMEA by S. Rotz

The first system of the musical score is in E♭ major and 2/2 time. It begins with a vocal line in the treble clef, marked *mf*, which starts with a whole rest for two measures before entering with a melodic line. The lyrics are: "'Tis a gift to be sim-ple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a". Below the vocal line is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs), also marked *mf*, providing harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

The second system begins at measure 5. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "gift to come down where we ought to be, And when we find our-selves in the". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and melodic fragments, maintaining the harmonic structure.

The third system begins at measure 8. The vocal line is marked *f* and concludes with the lyrics: "place just right 'twill be in the val-ley of love and de - light." The piano accompaniment features a more active melodic line in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

May be freely reproduced for GMEA All-State Chorus purposes.

12 *mp* *mf*

When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be a - shamed, to

16 *f* *mp*

turn, turn will be our de - light till by turn - ing, tur - ning we come round right. To turn, turn will

21 *p*

be our de light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

15^{ma}