

David Cameron

The
Lord's Dance

**Prelude for Organ
on the Shaker melody**

Simple Gifts

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for the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

All proceeds from the sale of this music go to the RCCO endowment.

A Prelude on the melody *Simple Gifts*

This now familiar tune was written by the Shaker Elder Joseph Brackett (1797–1882) in 1848. Brackett, a lifelong resident of Maine, first joined the Shakers at Gorham, Maine; his father's farm helped to form the nucleus of a new Shaker settlement. The original "Simple Gifts" words were written by Elder Joseph at the Shaker community in Alfred, Maine. Many have assumed that the tune of "Simple Gifts" was a traditional Celtic one but both the music and original lyrics are actually the compositions of Brackett.

The song was largely unknown outside Shaker communities until Aaron Copland used its melody for the score of Martha Graham's ballet *Appalachian Spring*, first performed in 1944. Copland used "Simple Gifts" a second time in 1950 in his first set of *Old American Songs* for voice and piano, which was later orchestrated.

"Simple Gifts" has been adapted or arranged many times since by folksingers and composers. Probably the best known version is by English songwriter Sydney Carter, who adapted the Shaker tune for his song "Lord of the Dance", published in 1963. In this form it appears in many recent or contemporary hymn books.

The Lord's Dance

Simple Gifts, 18th-century Shaker melody.

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Energico
Great *f*
Solo Trumpet
ff
Swell
mf
Off Great to Pedal

6
Great
Great
Add Great to Pedal

10
Solo Trumpet
Swell
Off Great to Pedal

The musical score is written for piano and solo trumpet. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-5) features a piano accompaniment with a 'Great' pedal and a solo trumpet line. The second system (measures 6-9) continues the piano accompaniment with 'Great' pedal markings. The third system (measures 10-13) includes a 'Swell' marking and 'Off Great to Pedal' instructions. The score is marked 'Energico' and includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *ff*, and *mf*. A large diagonal watermark 'FOR REVIEW ONLY' is overlaid across the score.

14

Great

19

(Still on Great)

rit. ten

Swell

Great

23

Solo Trumpet

Great *f*

Add Great to Pedal

The Lord's Dance

27

rall. a tempo

Pedal solo

31

35

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39 *rit.*

Musical score for measures 39-42. The score is written for piano in three staves (treble, middle, and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music features a melodic line in the upper staves and a bass line in the lower staff. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present at the end of the section.

43 *a tempo*

Solo Trumpet

Musical score for measures 43-46. The score is written for piano in three staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music features a melodic line in the upper staves and a bass line in the lower staff. A *a tempo* marking is present at the beginning of the section. A **Solo Trumpet** marking is placed above the middle staff. A large diagonal watermark "FOR REVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the score.

47

ff

ff

32' reed

Musical score for measures 47-50. The score is written for piano in three staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music features a melodic line in the upper staves and a bass line in the lower staff. A *ff* (fortissimo) marking is present in the middle and lower staves. A *32' reed* marking is present in the lower staff. A large diagonal watermark "FOR REVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the score.