Four Verses on

Simple Gifts

A Setting for Carillon

Fruhauf Music Publications

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2021
Four Verses on Simple Gifts

Setting for Carillon

Notes

Four Verses on Simple Gifts finds its roots in American folk music and 18th-century Shaker culture.

In this setting, the treble melody is presented in a lively rhythmic setting above a syncopated bass line. After a modulation from a tonic of C-major, the second verse – or variation – appears in A-flat major in two voice canon, overlapping itself at unison pitch, also in the treble registers and underlaid by a slow moving syncopated pedal line. After a brief modulation to E-major, the tune is richly harmonized at a slower tempo, first in the soprano, then in the lower bells (or pedal), with the last phrase returning to the treble registers. The opening verse is restated in the original tonic key and closes with a brief codetta.

N.B. This setting joins numerous other similar arrangements, transcriptions, and compositions that are notated specifically for performance on traditional carillons. These variations can also be adapted to other keyboard or plucked string instruments with congenial results and minimal alterations or additions. A companion setting can be found in a Rondo on Simple Gifts for organ, also published by FMP. Both of these settings owe much of their inspiration to orchestral movements composed by Aaron Copland that feature the Quaker melody.

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Four Verses on
Simple Gifts

Traditional Shaker Melody

Setting for Carillon
Ennis Fruhauf

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Four Verses on Simple Gifts

Andante [♩ = c. 84]

a tempo

espressivo

più f

mf

mp

mp
Four Verses on Simple Gifts

Andantino \[ \text{\textit{b} = c. 96} \]