

JUDITH SHATIN

'Tis a Gift

SATB Chorus



## Program Note

*'Tis a Gift to Be Simple* is a setting of the lyrics by Joseph Brackett (1797-1882), songwriter and member of the Shaker community who also composed the original melody. I created a new melody and four-part setting which has the character of a madrigal, including the 'fa-la-la' embellishments so typical of that genre. This music is accessible and appropriate for high school choruses and beyond.

### *'Tis a Gift*

*'Tis a gift to be simple  
'Tis a gift to be free  
'Tis a gift to come down  
Where we ought to be.  
And when we find ourselves  
In the place just right  
We will be in a valley of love's delight.*

World Premiere Minneapolis Vocal Consort Bear Lake, MN 5/12/1994
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Duration: 2:00

# 'Tis a Gift to Be Simple

Traditional Quaker Hymn

Judith Shatin

**Brightly**  
*mf*

la la la la Fa la la  
Fa la la la Fa la la la la  
Fa la la  
la  
la! 'Tis a gift to be sim - ple, 'tis a gift to be  
la  
free, 'tis a gift to come down where we  
ought to be Fa la la la  
la la la la

*poco rit.* *mp* *mf* *a tempo*

Fa la la *cresc.*

Fa la la la la la, — And when we, — when

Fa la la la *cresc.*

*mf* we find out - selves in the place just right, *mp* we will

*mf* *mp*

*mf* be in a val - ley of love's de -

*mf*

1. light. 2. *Fine* *f* light. When, when, true, true sim

*mp* *mp* *f* when

Fa la la *cresc.*  
Fa la la la la la, — And when we, — when  
Fa la la la *cresc.*



*mf* we find our - selves in the place just right, *mp* we will  
*mf* *mp*



*mf* be — in — a val - ley — of — love's — de -  
*mf*



1. light. 2. light. **Fine** *f* When, when, true, true sim -  
*mp* *mp* when



plic - i - tu is gained *mf* to bow and to bend *mf* we  
 to bend,  
 to bend,

shant be a - shamed, *cresc.* to turn, *cresc.* turn, *cresc.* turn,  
 turn, *cresc.* turn, *cresc.* turn,  
 to

turn, *f* turn, *f* will be out de - light, *mf* 'til by  
 turn, *f* *mf*

*D.C. al Fine*  
 turn - ing 'til by turn - ing we come a - round right.