

Commissioned for the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the Spreckels Organ,
Balboa Park, San Diego, California, Robert Plimpton, Civic Organist

The Balboa Park Organ Suite: A Celebration of Many Peoples

1. Theme and Variations

Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn, will be our delight
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

Shaker Folk Song

*The "simplicity" suggested by the text is reflected in the "simplicity" of the harmony and texture of the organ setting.
The "turning" is depicted by the dancelike keyboard figurations.*

Michael Burkhardt

Andante moderato (♩ = 112)

Gt. } Foundations 8', Flute 4

Ped: Foundations 16', 8'

The first system of the musical score is for the organ. It features three staves: a treble staff, a middle bass staff, and a lower bass staff. The treble staff has a whole rest in the first measure, followed by a half note G4 in the second measure, and a half note A4 in the third measure. The middle bass staff plays a continuous eighth-note melody in the key of D major (one sharp). The lower bass staff plays a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Andante moderato' with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute. The registration is indicated as 'Gt. } Foundations 8', Flute 4' and 'Ped: Foundations 16', 8''.

The second system of the musical score continues the organ setting. It features the same three-staff structure. The treble staff continues with half notes B4 and C5 in the second and third measures, respectively. The middle bass staff continues its eighth-note melody. The lower bass staff continues its eighth-note accompaniment. The registration remains the same as in the first system.

Tempo I (♩ = 112)

leggiero

Sw: 8', 2'

The first system of musical notation for piano, featuring a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Tempo I (♩ = 112)' and the style is 'leggiero'. The music consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Below the grand staff is a single bass clef staff with a whole rest.

The second system of musical notation for piano, continuing the eighth-note pattern from the first system. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs in the key of one sharp. Below the grand staff is a single bass clef staff with a whole rest.

The third system of musical notation for piano, continuing the eighth-note pattern. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs in the key of one sharp. Below the grand staff is a single bass clef staff with a whole rest.

The fourth system of musical notation for piano, concluding the eighth-note pattern. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs in the key of one sharp. The right hand ends with a comma, and the left hand ends with a comma. Below the grand staff is a single bass clef staff with a whole rest.

3. Carol Minature

See the Eastern Star

Through the darkest night the Savior we come seeking
Using as our guide, the star, so brightly beaming.

See the eastern star, it tells of God's great morning,
Heaven's wondrous light o'er all the world is shining!
See the eastern star, sing glory in the highest,
And upon the earth be peace, goodwill to all.

Puerto Rican Carol

The rhythmic figurations and harmonic language of the organ setting depict the joy and anticipation of the travelers as they follow the light of God.

Michael Burkhardt

Lightly, with joy and expectation (♩ = 92)

Pos: Gedeckt 8', Nazard 2 2/3'

Gt: Quintadena 16'

Flute 4'

simile

4. Festival March

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.

James Weldon Johnson, 1871-1938

In this organ setting the bold text "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson and vigorous melody by J. Rosamond Johnson are paired with the strains of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic", an American folk hymn popular during the time of the Civil War. The quest for liberty continues as it has throughout the ages.

Michael Burkhardt

$\text{♩} = 60$

Gt. } Bourdon 8'

Ped: 16', 8'

simile

3

29

Measures 29-31 of a musical score in A major (three sharps). The score is written for three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. Measure 29 features a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with a whole note. Measure 30 has a treble staff with a whole note and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 31 shows a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. A dynamic marking of p is present in measure 31.

32

Measures 32-34 of a musical score in A major. Measure 32 has a treble staff with eighth notes and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 33 features a treble staff with a whole note and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 34 shows a treble staff with a whole note and a bass staff with eighth notes. A dynamic marking of p is present in measure 34. The word *legato* is written above the treble staff in measure 34.

35

Measures 35-36 of a musical score in A major. Measure 35 has a treble staff with a whole note and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 36 features a treble staff with a whole note and a bass staff with eighth notes. A dynamic marking of p is present in measure 36. The word *non-legato* is written below the treble staff in measure 36.

37

Measures 37-39 of a musical score in A major. Measure 37 has a treble staff with a whole note and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 38 features a treble staff with a whole note and a bass staff with eighth notes. Measure 39 shows a treble staff with a whole note and a bass staff with eighth notes. A dynamic marking of p is present in measure 39.