The Balboa Park Organ Suite: A Celebration of Many Peoples

1. Theme and Variations

Simple Gifts

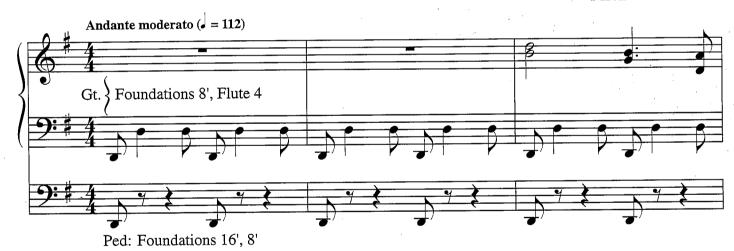
'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

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.

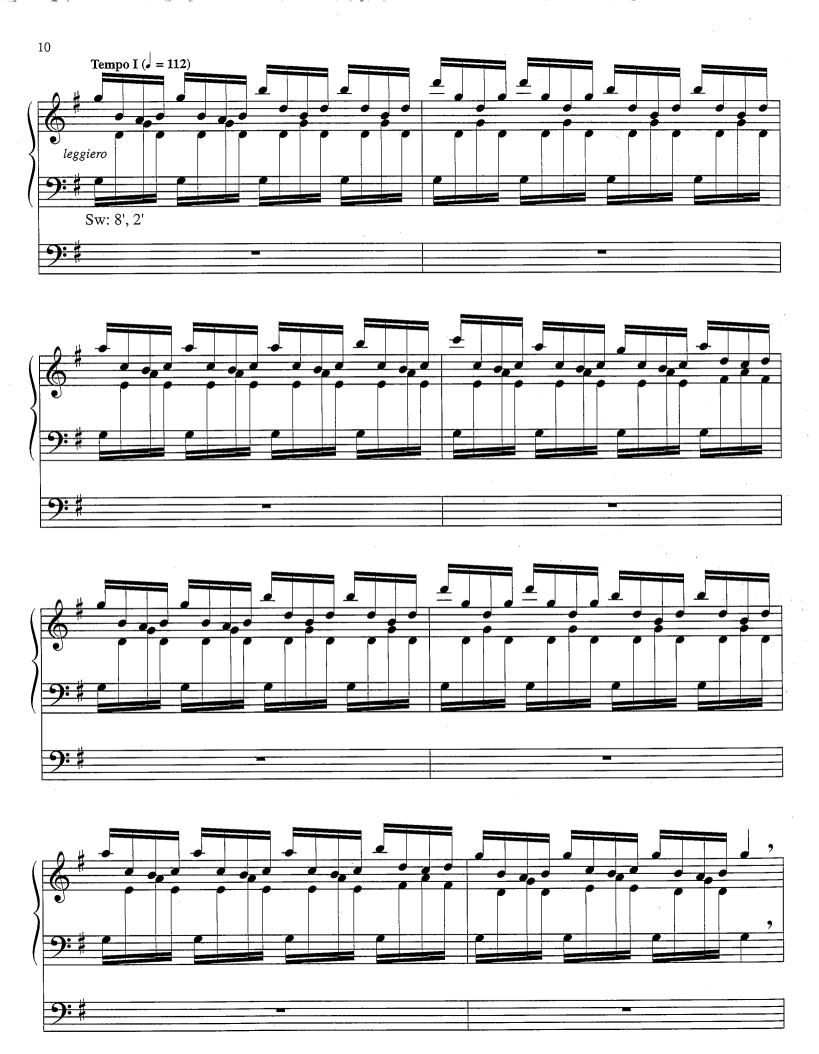
Shaker Folk Song

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







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.



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.



LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING Words by James Weldon Johnson. Music by J. Rosamond Johnson. Copyright © 1921 by Edward B. Marks Music Company. Copyright renewed. International Copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Based on LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. R. Johnson, 1873-1954, and BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC, 19th cent. American.

