

SHAKER VARIATIONS

Simple Gifts

Arranged by Jim Palmer

INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

PROGRAM NOTES

Shaker Variations, by Jim Palmer, is a theme and variations on the familiar Shaker melody “Simple Gifts.” Each section has the opportunity to play interesting lines and a variety of styles. Rich harmonies will create a mature orchestral sound, and a strong ending makes this piece a great opener or closer to any concert or festival.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Pay close attention to the dynamics to ensure the melodic material is always balanced. Strive for a smooth legato contrast in measures 23–61. Start building in measures 81 and 82 to play measures 83–97 with maximum sound while maintaining a beautiful tone.

“Simple Gifts” is one of my all-time favorite tunes. I hope you and your students enjoy this theme and variations.

Note from the Editor

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at www.alfred.com/stringeditorial.

X
extended position

-
shift

’
bow lift/reset

(b), (#), (♯)
high or low fingerings

▣▣ or V V
hooked bowings



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

Shaker Variations

Simple Gifts

FULL SCORE
Duration - 3:45

Arranged by Jim Palmer (ASCAP)

With spirit ♩ = 108

Violins I

Violins II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

ff

1 2 3 4

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

5 6 7 8



11

Musical score for measures 9-12. The score includes staves for Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 9 and 10 show a rhythmic pattern with accents. Measure 11 begins with a *pizz.* instruction and *mf* dynamic. Measure 12 features a *V* marking above the first violin staff and *mf* dynamic. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score includes staves for Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 13 and 14 continue the rhythmic pattern. Measure 15 has a *4* marking above the first violin staff. Measure 16 has a *4* marking above the viola staff. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

17 18 19 20

21
I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

21 22 23 24

I
Vlns. *mf*

II
Vlns. *mf*

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

25 26 27 28

33

I
Vlns. *f*

II
Vlns. *f*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mp*

29 30 31 32 33

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

34 35 36 37 38

p *mf* *mf*

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

39 40 41 42 43

p *mp* *p* *p* *cresc.*

p *cresc.* *cresc.*

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

44 45 46 47 48

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

49 50 51 52 53

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

cresc.

54 55 56 57 58

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f *p* *f*

f *p* *f*

f *p* *f*

f *p* *cresc.*

f *p* *cresc.*

59 60 61 62 63

64

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

simile

64 65 66

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

67 68 69

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

70 71 72

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

73 74 75

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

76 77 78

This block contains the musical score for measures 76, 77, and 78. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 76 and 77 consist of continuous sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 78 includes a fermata over the first measure and a '-1' marking below the String Bass staff.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

79 80 81 82

This block contains the musical score for measures 79, 80, 81, and 82. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 79 and 80 feature a '4' marking above the first measure of each staff. Measures 81 and 82 include a 'V' marking above the first measure of each staff and a 'ff' dynamic marking. Measure 82 also includes a '-1' marking below the String Bass staff.

83 *marcato sostenuto*

Vlns. I *sim.*

Vlns. II *marcato sostenuto* *sim.*

Vla. *marcato sostenuto* *sim.* 4

Cello *ff* *marcato sostenuto* *sim.*

Str. Bass *ff* *marcato sostenuto* -1 *sim.*

83 84 85 86

Vlns. I 4 91

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

87 88 89 90 91

Musical score for measures 92-96, featuring five staves: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 92 shows a -4 fingering for the Cello and Str. Bass. Measures 93-95 feature a 'V' (vibrato) marking above the first notes. Measure 95 includes a '4' marking above the first note of the Vlns. I staff. The score is overlaid with a large red watermark: 'Preview Only Legal use requires purchase'.

Musical score for measures 97-100, featuring five staves: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measures 97-98 show a -4 fingering for the Cello and Str. Bass. Measures 98-100 feature a 'V' (vibrato) marking above the first notes. Measure 99 includes a 'V' marking above the first note of the Str. Bass staff. The score is overlaid with a large red watermark: 'Preview Only Legal use requires purchase'.