

Simple Gifts

Traditional

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D

D
A
F#
D
a

4
4

0 7 8 0 0 0 10 10 12 12 0 0

5

12 12 10 12 0 10 10 0 0 10 12 0 0

D

9

H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

10 12 10 11 7 8 10 10 12 10 0

A

13

H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

12 12 12 14 10 12 10 10 12 10 0

G D See notes Harmonics

17

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

9 10 12 0 0 0 0

Harmonics

21

H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

12 9 10 9 10 10 10 10 12 12 0 0

25

A

D

29

A

33

G

D See notes

1.

2.

37

This setting of the old Shaker hymn is in open D tuning, which allows the liberal use of the open 4th and open 2nd strings for drones. When playing these open notes, especially the open 4th string, they should be played softly, so that they remain in the background, almost like a string ringing in sympathy.

Throughout the right hand almost exclusively employs the alternating thumb pattern, sometimes called the box roll or square roll. This will be either TITM, TMTM, or the variant, T-TM, which more or less mimics the basic clawhammer stroke. This gives the whole piece a nice old-timey sound.

I hear what is essentially an extra measure in the cadence of each part, added in as measure 18 and measure 35. If it doesn't sound right to you, just leave it out.