

THREE AMERICAN FOLKSONGS

Having lived in North Dakota for the better part of my high school and undergraduate college years, I have grown to hold a particular affinity for the Midwest. This has grown into a love for people of all walks of life, but especially ones who don't mind working – working a whole lot. An American heritage that I thoroughly enjoy is the work song – not just slave songs, but songs that simply get hard working people through a long day.

This affinity is rooted in an even broader aesthetic – the vernacular. I believe that music does not have to suffer if it is simple, and is not necessarily better if it is particularly sophisticated. In fact, it is my sincere hope that simplicity and sophistication will one day find its way back into both popular and academic circles of music (e.g. Bach and the Beatles).

It is the aim of these three folksongs arranged for marimba to achieve that delicate balance between sophistication and simplicity. Ironically, they are very difficult to perform, leaving the notion of simplicity to the listener. These are written in a style that suggests improvisation, but don't be fooled, they are very specifically composed.

- 1) Jump Down**
- 2) Shenandoah**
- 3) Simple Gifts**

*free