

Simply Sharing

THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

LEARNING THROUGH MUSIC

MATERIALS & SETUP

- **Book:** *Simple Gifts* by Chris Raschka
- **Music:** *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns
- **Music:** “Simple Gifts” from *Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copland

CONNECTIONS TO OH STANDARDS

FINE ARTS

- **3CE** Listen to and identify music of various and contrasting styles, composers, periods and cultures.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- **11.** Wants are unlimited and resources are limited. Therefore, people make choices because they cannot have everything they want.

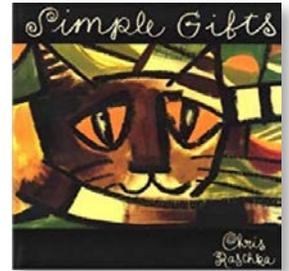
LANGUAGE ARTS

- **RL.1.7** Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.

Learning Objective: Students will learn through music about the importance of sharing in a community and how growing things must share resources in order to live together.

ACTIVITY (30-35 minutes)

1. Read the book *Simple Gifts*. While reading, have the students identify what they see: What animals are in the paintings? What are they doing? Where are they? Do the animals look happy? Are they friends?
2. Read *Simple Gifts* again, this time pointing out the different animals. Play the corresponding excerpt from *Carnival of the Animals* for the following animals: bird ([IX. The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods](#)), turtle ([IV. Tortoise](#)), and bunny ([VIII. Characters with the Long Ears](#)). Talk about how those pieces describe the animal (tempo, dynamic, etc.).
3. Discuss how all of the animals in the book have to share their environment, even though they are different from one another. Review what growing things need (food, shelter, water, etc.) and that growing things must learn to live together.
4. Explain to the students that the words in the book are from a folk song written in 1848 by a group called the Shakers, a community of people who lived together and shared everything, including music and dancing. The song inspired the author to paint the images for the book.
5. Share the “Simple Gifts” lyrics with the students, which is the last page of the book.
6. Play the orchestral version of “Simple Gifts” by Aaron Copland.



REFLECTION

1. Does the student understand the concept of interdependence and the importance of sharing in a community?
2. Can the student identify musical elements that describe a particular animal and describe why?
3. Can the student identify a historical theme of sharing passed down from the Shaker people?

(over)

EXTENSION

1. Sing "Simple Gifts" with your students:

*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.*