

A Simple Gift

(Circle Mixer with men inside facing partner (4 steps per measure))

Victor Skowronski

Music: *Simple Gifts*
Joseph Brackett, 1848

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff is labeled 'A' and the second 'B'. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, C, G, (Am), G, C, (Dm), C, G, (Am), C, F, C, C, G, (Am), C, F, C.

A

- 1-2: All go a double counter-clockwise and back.
- 3-4: All go a double clockwise and back. (This figure and the previous can be replaced by shoulder siding or arming.)
- 5-6: All fall back from partner and come forward.
- 7-8: All turn partner two hands.

B

- 1-2: All turn left diagonal by the left hand.
- 3-4: All slow set and honor partner, both right and left.
- 5-6: All turn right diagonal by the right hand.
- 7-8: All gypsy partner by the right shoulder. At the end, all advance one place counter-clockwise to face left diagonal (new partner).

Notes

- 1: The dance is inspired by an illustration of Shakers dancing. The illustration shows a Shaker dance where the men form an inner and the women an outer one. They are also moving in opposite directions. The circle mixer formation imitates this formation.
- 2: The dance is also intended to be a beginner friendly dance. A dancer never turns his or her back on his or her partner, so it always possible to get help.