Not So Simple:
The History and Life of “Simple Gifts”

Audience: K-12 Teachers of Music, Professional Development Specialists, Curriculum Specialists
Instructor: Jonathan Rappaport
Dates & Times: October 9, 2015 OR November 30, 2015
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Course Description: This seminar will focus on a “deep dive” interdisciplinary unit centered on the American Shaker tune, “Simple Gifts.” Composed in 1848 by Joseph Brackett (1797–1882) of the Sabbath day Lake Shaker community in Maine, this tune is perhaps one of the most-loved American songs, used in Presidential inaugurations and funerals, ballets, classical and popular renditions and arrangements, and a host of other genres. Although it was said that this song came to Brackett in a vision, there are melodic antecedents of this song that may suggest that the tune was in Brackett’s musical memory. The history of this period, including the “Second Great Awakening” religious movements, will be explored as a context for the beginning of the Shakers and other religious groups in early to mid 1800s. The unit will culminate in studying several important American instrumental, vocal and choral compositions based on “Simple Gifts” by Aaron Copland, John Williams, and others, as well as versions in popular American and Irish culture.

About the Instructor: Jonathan Rappaport is currently the Executive Director of ArtsILearning in Natick, MA. He also is co-founder and co-director of the Kodaly Music Institute, now housed in Southborough, MA. His previous associations include Shir Joy Chorus, the New England Conservatory and the Conservatory Lab Charter School.

To register: Go online to http://www.tec-coop.org/PDL_RegForm.html or complete this form and send, along with a check or PO, to:
TEC Professional Development, 141 Mansion Drive, Suite 200, E. Walpole, MA 02032

Please register me for “Not So Simple: The History and Life of “Simple Gifts””!

Check the date of the workshop you wish to attend: □ October 9th in Holliston
□ November 30th in Natick

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Withdrawals: No credits/refunds will be given unless TEC is notified 10 business days before the first class. All payments processed upon receipt.