

# *Simple Things*

*for flute, oboe, trumpet in C, piano, soprano, violin, viola, and cello*

*Ronald Keith Parks*

**Instrumentation:**

flute  
oboe  
trumpet in C  
piano  
soprano  
violin  
viola  
cello

***I thought I'd better let you know...***

*I thought I'd better let you know,  
I got home Okay and I'm thinking of you.  
It rained off and on all the way home.  
This is all the paper I could find - maybe it will be all right.*

*I thought I'd better let you know,  
It sure is quiet around here.  
I sure do miss you and the kids - I hope you got to see your folks,  
I'm fine, except that I miss you so much.*

*I thought I'd better let you know,  
I forgot to leave you more money.  
I don't even know if you had any or not,  
I hope this will be enough until I get there - I hope it will be all right.*

*I thought I'd better let you know,  
I went back to work on Thursday night.  
They tried to call me in on Wednesday - but they didn't have my number.  
I sure wish I could have worked three nights instead of two.*

*When you get home I want you to cook a good meal.  
Just let me eat until I can't move,  
You know I can't cook - just simple things, like corn bread.*

*I thought I'd better let you know,  
If they take all they're supposed to out at the bank,  
I won't get any pay at all this week,  
I'll just get paid for fourteen hours - maybe they won't take anything... I hope not.*

*I thought I'd better let you know,  
They laid off twenty eight more at the paper mill last week.  
When I heard I went to sleep on the couch,  
I had the funniest dream - I won't try to explain it right now.*

*Oh listen to me, you're not interested in all that are you?  
There's so much I'd like to tell you - but I just can't think when I sit down to write.  
I don't think I really want to say anything. I just want to hold you and know you're here - and hear you say you love me.*

*I guess I'd better close for now,  
And try to eat a bite of my burned corn bread,  
I forgot about it after I started to write.  
I love you more than you can possibly know - more than you can possibly know.*

# Simple Things

Written for the Charlotte Symphony's "Orchestra on Campus Composers' Project" in partnership with the Levine Museum of the New South "Changing Places" exhibit and Winthrop University.

Ronald Keith Parks

Text: Ronald Keith Parks  
adapted from a letter written by  
Kenneth Earl Parks, June 25, 1962

**A** *rubato* ♩ = 50

Flute *pp*

Oboe *pp*

Trumpet in C

Piano *p* *pp*

Soprano *Sop.* I thought I'd bet-ter let you know,

Violin *pp*

Viola *pp*

Cello *pizz.* *p*

//

//

Pno. *p*

Sop. I got home o - kay and I'm think-ing of you It rained off and on all the way home This is all the pa-per I could find

Fl. *p*

Vln. *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vlc.

20

Fl.

20

C Tpt.

20

Pno.

20

Sop.

20

Vln.

Vla.

Vcl.

Ob.

solo... *p*

B

28

end solo

8<sup>va</sup>

*p*

*pp*

may - be it will be all right

I

//

//

30

Pno.

30

Sop.

30

Vln.

Vla.

Vcl.

thought I'd bet - ter let you know, It sure is quiet a-round here. I sure do miss you and the kids

*ppp*

*pp*

*ppp*

*pp*

Fl. *solo... p* *end solo*

Ob. *p*

Pno. *p*

Sop. *I hope you got to see your folks, I'm fine except that I miss you*

Vln. *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vlc. *p*

39

8va

//

//

C Trp. *solo... p mp* *end solo 49* C

Pno. *mp*

Sop. *so much... mp*

Vln. *pp mp*

Vla. *pp mp*

Vlc. *ppp solo... arco p*

46

8va

52 *pp*

56 **D** *pp* *solo...* *end solo*

*pp* *solo...* *end solo*

*pp* *end solo* *pizz.* *pp*

*pp* *pp*

//

//

60

*ppp* *ppp*

60 thought I'd bet - ter let you know, I for - got to leave you more mon - ey I don't e - ven know if you had an - y or not, I

Fl. *ppp*

Ob. *ppp*

Pno. *pp*

Sop. hope this will be e - nough un - til I \_\_\_\_\_ get there, I \_\_\_\_\_ hope it will be all \_\_\_\_\_ right \_\_\_\_\_

Vln. *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vcl. *ppp* arco

//

//

Fl. *p* *pp*

Ob. *p* *pp*

Pno. *pp*

Sop. I thought I'd bet - ter let you know I went back to work on Thurs - day

Vln. *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vcl. *pp* pizz.





(8<sup>va</sup>)

101

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*solo...*

//

//

(8<sup>va</sup>)

105

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

//

//

(8<sup>va</sup>)

109

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Sop.

When you get home I

*end solo*

*arco*

*pp*

G

113

114

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

Pno.

Sop.

want you to cook a good meal. Just let me eat un - til I can't move, you

//

119

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

Pno.

Sop.

know I can't cook just simple things, like corn bread. simple things,

//

124

Fl.

Ob.

Pno.

Sop.

like corn bread. simple things, simple things,

Vln. *pp*

Vla. *pp*

129 *Pno.* *p* H 133

129 *Sop.* sim - - - - - ple things.

129 *Vln.* *ppp*

*Vla.* *ppp*

*Vlc.* *ppp*

//

//

134 *Fl.* *pp*

134 *Ob.* *pp*

134 *Pno.* *p*

134 *Sop.* I thought I'd bet - ter let you know, If they take all they're sup - posed to out at the

134 *Vln.* *ppp*

134 *Vla.* *ppp*

*Vlc.* *p*

138

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Pno.

Sop. bank, I won't get an-y pay at all this week, I'll just get paid for

Vln. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *ppp* *p*

Vla. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p*

Vlc.

//

//

142

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Pno.

Sop. four - teen\_\_ hours, may-be they won't take an - y\_\_ thing... I hope

Vln. *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Vla. *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Vlc.

146 148

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

C Tpt. *p* *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Sop. *mp*  
not. I thought I'd bet - ter let you know,

Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *mp*

//

150

Fl. *p* *mp*

Ob. *p* *mp*

C Tpt. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Sop. *mf*  
They laid off twen - ty eight more at the pa - per mill last week. When I heard I went to

Vln. *p* *mp* *mp*

Vla. *p* *mp* *mp*

Vlc. *p* *mp* *mp*

154

Fl.

Ob.

C Tpt. *solo...*

Pno. *mf*

Sop.

sleep on the couch, I had the fun - ni - est dream, I won't try

Vln. *mp* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *mf*

//

//

158

161 J

C Tpt. *f*

Pno. *f*

Sop. *f*

to ex - plain it right now.

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

*solo...*

163

Fl. *solo... mf*

Ob. *solo... mf*

C Tpt.

Pno.

Vln. *end solo*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc.

169

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

C Tpt. *end solo mf*

Pno. *mf mp*

Vln. *mf mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *mf mp*

175 *end solo*

Fl.

Ob. *end solo*

Pno.

175

178

*p*

Sop.

*mp* *p*

Oh lis - ten to me, you're not in - trest - ed in all that

Vlc. *p*

Vlc. *p*

Vlc. *p*

//

//

182

Pno.

182

Sop.

are you? There's so much I'd like to tell you, but I just can't think

Vlc.

//

//

188

Pno.

188

Sop.

when I sit down to write. I don't think I real - ly want to say an - y thing. I

Vlc.



194

Pno.

Sop.

Vcl.

just want to hold you and know you're here, and hear you say you love

//

//

200

Fl.

Ob.

Pno.

Sop.

Vln.

Vla.

Vcl.

me.

ppp

p

arco

p

solo...

end solo

end solo

207

Pno. *pp*

Vln. *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* *end solo*

Vlc. *ppp*

Sop. *p*

I guess I'd bet - ter close for now, and try to

Vlc. *pizz.* *p*

//

//

224

Fl. *ppp*

Ob. *ppp*

216

Pno.

Sop.

eat a bite, \_\_\_\_\_ of my burned \_\_\_\_\_ corn - bread, I for - got a - bout it af - ter I start - ed to write.

Vln. *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vlc. *arco*

*8<sup>va</sup>*

(8<sup>va</sup>)

225

Pno.

Sop.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

I love you more than you can — pos - si - bly — know. — more — than you can pos - si - bly

//

//

(8<sup>va</sup>)

233

Pno.

Sop.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

know. more — than you can pos - si - bly — know. — more than you can pos - si - bly

Fl. *ppp*

Ob. *ppp*

C Tpt. *solo... ppp*

Pno.

Sop. *know*

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

//

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

C Tpt. *end solo*

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

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