

The Twelve Days of Christmas

for SAB Chorus and Piano

Duration: 3:50

Also available for:
SATB Chorus and Piano

Old English Song
Arranged by Michael Pratt, ASCAP

Moderato $\text{♩} = 76$

mf *f* Solo

Soprano
On the first day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: a

Alto
On the first day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

Bass
On the first day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

Piano
Moderato $\text{♩} = 76$
mf *mp*

Note: the various solos do not have to be sung by the same person every time.
E.g. there does not need to be only one "partridge" soloist.

5 *mf* Tutti

S
par - tridge in a pear tree. On the sec - ond day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

A
On the sec - ond day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

B
On the sec - ond day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

Pno.
mf

The Twelve Days of Christmas

9

f Solo *mf* Tutti

S and a part-ridge in a pear tree. On the third day of Christ-mas my true love gave to me:

f Solo *mf* Tutti

A two tur-tle doves On the third day of Christ-mas my true love gave to me:

mf

B On the third day of Christ-mas my true love gave to me:

Pno. *mp* *mf*

14

f Solo *f* Tutti

S and a par-tridge in a pear tree. On the

f Solo *f* Tutti

A two tur-tle doves, On the

f Solo *f*

B three French hens, On the

Pno. *mp* *f*

18

S
fourth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

A
fourth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: *f* Solo *f* Solo

B
fourth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: four call - ing birds, three French hens,

Pno.
mp

22

S
f Solo *f* Tutti
and a par - tridge in a pear tree. On the fifth day of Christ - mas my

A
f Solo *f* Tutti
two tur - tle doves, On the fifth day of Christ - mas my

B
f Tutti
On the fifth day of Christ - mas my

Pno.
f

26 *f* **Twice as Slow** **Tempo I**

S true love gave to me: five gold - en rings,

A true love gave to me: five gold - en rings, *f* Solo *f* Solo

B true love gave to me: five gold - en rings, four call - ing birds, three French hens,

Twice as Slow **Tempo I**

Pno. *mp*

31 *f* Solo *f* Tutti

S and a par - tridge in a pear tree. On the sixth day of Christ - mas my

A *f* Solo *f* Tutti On the sixth day of Christ - mas my

B two tur - tle doves, On the sixth day of Christ - mas my

On the sixth day of Christ - mas my

Pno. *f*

35 *f* Solo *f* Tutti **Twice as Slow** **Tempo I**

S true love gave to me: six geese a lay-ing, five gold-en rings,

A true love gave to me: five gold-en rings, *f* Solo

B true love gave to me: five gold-en rings, four call-ing birds,

Pno. *mp* *mp*

40 *f* Solo *mf* Tutti

S and a par-tridge in a pear tree. On the

A *f* Solo *mf* Tutti

B *f* Solo two tur-tle doves, On the

three French hens, On the

Pno. *mf*

44 *f* Solo

S se-venth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: six geese a lay - ing,

A se-venth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: *f* Solo sev - en swans a swim - ming,

B se-venth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

Pno. *mp*

48 *f* Tutti *f* Solo

S five gold - en rings, and a

A five gold - en rings, *f* Solo

B five gold - en rings, *f* Solo two tur - tle doves,

Pno. *f* *mp*

five gold - en rings, four call - ing birds, three French hens,

Twice as Slow *Tempo I*

53

mf Tutti

S par - tridge in a pear tree. On the eighth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

mf Tutti

A On the eighth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

mf Tutti

B On the eighth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

Pno.

57

f Solo

S six geese a lay - ing, *f* **Twice as Slow** Tutti

f Solo

A sev - en swans a swim - ming, *f* Tutti

f Solo

B eight maids a milk - ing, *f* Tutti

Pno.

mp

f **Twice as Slow**

61 **Tempo I** *f* Solo

S rings, and a par-tridge in a pear

A rings, *f* Solo

B rings, *f* Solo *f* Solo two tur-tle doves,

rings, four call-ing birds, three French hens, **Tempo I**

Pno. *mp*

66 *f* Tutti

S tree. On the ninth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

A *f* Tutti On the ninth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

B *f* Tutti *f* Solo On the ninth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: nine la - dies danc-ing,

Pno. *f* *mp*

70

f Solo **f** Tutti **Twice as Slow** *rit.*

S six geese a lay-ing, five gold - en rings,

A sev-en swans a swim-ming, five gold - en rings,

B eight maids a milk-ing, five gold - en rings,

f **f** **f** **Twice as Slow** *rit.*

Pno.

Tempo I

75

f Solo **f** Tutti

S and a par-tridge in a pear tree. On the

A two tur-tle doves, On the

B four call-ing birds, three French hens, On the

f **f** **f** **Tempo I** **f**

Pno.

80 *f* Solo

S
tenth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: ten lords a leap-ing,

A
tenth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

B
tenth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: *f* Solo
nine la - dies danc - ing,

Pno. *mp*

84 *f* Solo *f* Solo *rit.* **Twice as Slow**

S
f Solo *f* Solo *rit.*
six geese a lay-ing, five gold - en rings,

A
f Solo *f* Solo *rit.*
sev-en swans a swim-ming, five gold - en rings,

B
f Solo *f* Solo *rit.*
eight maids a milk-ing, five gold - en rings,

Pno. *mp* **Twice as Slow**

Tempo I

89

f Solo

S and a par - tridge in a pear

f Solo

A two tur - tle doves,

f Solo

B four call - ing birds, three French hens,

Tempo I

mp

Pno.

93

f Tutti

S tree. On the e - lev - enth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

f Tutti

A On the e - lev - enth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me: *f* Solo e - lev - en pi - pers pip - ing,

f Tutti

B On the e - lev - enth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

f

Pno.

97 *f* Solo *f* Solo

S ten lords a leap-ing, *f* Solo six geese a lay-ing,

A sev-en swans a swim-ming,

B *f* Solo *f* Solo nine la-dies danc-ing, eight maids a milk-ing,

Pno. *mp*

102 *f* Tutti *f* Solo (opt. 8va)

S *f* Tutti gold - en rings, and a

A *f* Tutti gold - en rings, *f* Solo two tur-tle doves,

B *f* Tutti gold - en rings, *f* Solo *f* Solo four call-ing birds, three French hens,

Pno. *f* *mp*

Twice as Slow Tempo I

Meno Mosso
f Tutti

107

S par - tridge in a pear tree. On the twelfth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

A On the twelfth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

B On the twelfth day of Christ - mas my true love gave to me:

Pno. **Meno Mosso**
f

Tempo I
f Solo

111

S ten lords a leap - ing,

A e - lev - en pi - pers pip - ing,

B *f* Solo twelve drum - mers drum - ming, *f* Solo nine la - dies danc - ing,

Pno. **Tempo I**

Twice as Slow Tempo I

124

S
five gold-en rings, five gold-en rings, five gold - en rings,

A
five gold-en rings, five gold-en rings, five gold - en rings, *f* Solo *f* Solo

B
five gold - en rings, five gold - en rings, four call-ing birds, three French hens,

Pno.
mp

Meno Mosso

130

S
f Solo and a par-tridge in a pear tree. *ff* Tutti and a par - tridge in a pear tree.

A
f Solo two tur-tle doves, *ff* Tutti and a par - tridge in a pear tree.

B
ff Tutti and a par - tridge in a pear tree.

Pno.
ff

About **The Twelve Days of Christmas**

The twelve days of Christmas occur after Christmas between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the Three Wise Men.

There are two schools of thought on the origins of the song. One school says the song came from the time when early Christians were persecuted and the song was meant to teach and preserve the basic tenets of the faith, a so called "catechism song". The partridge in a pear tree is Christ, two turtle doves are the old and new testaments, three French hens are the virtues Faith, Hope, and Charity, four calling birds are the four gospels, five golden rings are the first five books of the bible, the "Pentatuch", six geese a laying are the six days of creation, seven swans a swimming are the seven sacraments, eight maids a milking are the eight beatitudes, nine ladies dancing are the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit, ten lords a leaping are the ten commandments, eleven pipers piping are the eleven faithful apostles, and the twelve drummers drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

The second school of thought says this is all an urban myth and the song is what most people take it to be: a secular song that celebrates the Christmas season with imagery of gifts and dancing and music (probably with origins as a children's counting song). Either way it is an old English Christmas song.

About **Michael Pratt**

Michael Pratt studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan. He has taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham, Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, and since 1981 with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra.