

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff (measures 1-4) has a key signature change to one flat (F major) and a time signature change to 3/4. The second staff (measures 5-9) continues in 3/4. The third staff (measures 10-13) returns to 4/4. The fourth staff (measures 14-17) continues in 4/4. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: F, Dm, Gm, C, C7, Gm, C7, Gm, C7, Gm, C7, Gm, C7, Gm, Am, G7, C, F, Bb, C7, F, Bb, F, C7, F.

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| <p>1. On the first day of Christmas
My true love sent to me
A partridge in a pear tree.</p> <p>2. On the second day of Christmas
My true love sent to me
Two turtle doves and
A partridge in a pear tree.</p> <p>3. On the third day of Christmas
My true love sent to me
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves and
A partridge in a pear tree.</p> <p>4. On the fourth day of Christmas
My true love sent to me
Four colly birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves and
A partridge in a pear tree.</p> | <p>5. On the fifth day of Christmas
My true love sent to me
Five gold rings,
Four colly birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves and
A partridge in a pear tree.</p> <p>6. On the sixth day of Christmas
My true love sent to me
Six geese laying,
Five gold rings,
Four colly birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves and
A partridge in a pear tree.</p> <p>7. On the seventh day of Christmas
My true love sent to me
Seven swans swimming,
Six geese laying,
Five gold rings,
Four colly birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves and
A partridge in a pear tree.</p> |
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8. On the eighth day of Christmas
 My true love sent to me
 Eight maids milking
 Seven swans swimming
 Six geese laying
 Five gold rings
 Four colly birds
 Three French hens
 Two turtle doves and
 A partridge in a pear tree.
9. On the ninth day of Christmas
 My true love sent to me
 Nine drummers drumming,
 Eight maids milking,
 Seven swans swimming,
 Six geese laying,
 Five gold rings,
 Four colly birds,
 Three French hens,
 Two turtle doves and
 A partridge in a pear tree.
10. On the tenth day of Christmas
 My true love sent to me
 Ten pipers piping,
 Nine drummers drumming,
 Eight maids milking,
 Seven swans swimming,
 Six geese laying,
 Five gold rings,
 Four colly birds,
 Three French hens,
 Two turtle doves and
 A partridge in a pear tree.
11. On the eleventh day of Christmas
 My true love sent to me
 Eleven ladies dancing,
 Ten pipers piping,
 Nine drummers drumming,
 Eight maids milking,
 Seven swans swimming,
 Six geese laying,
 Five gold rings,
 Four colly birds,
 Three French hens,
 Two turtle doves and
 A partridge in a pear tree.
12. On the twelfth day of Christmas
 My true love sent to me
 Twelve lords leaping,
 Eleven ladies dancing,
 Ten pipers piping,
 Nine drummers drumming,
 Eight maids milking,
 Seven swans swimming,
 Six geese laying,
 Five gold rings,
 Four colly birds,
 Three French hens,
 Two turtle doves and
 A partridge in a pear tree.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol that enumerates in the manner of a cumulative song a series of increasingly grand gifts given on each of the twelve days of Christmas. The earliest known version of the lyrics was published in London under the title "The Twelve Days of Christmas sung at King Pepin's Ball", as part of a 1780 children's book, **Mirth without Mischief**.

In the Faroe Islands, there is a comparable counting Christmas song. The gifts include: one feather, two geese, three sides of meat, four sheep, five cows, six oxen, seven dishes, eight ponies, nine banners, ten barrels, eleven goats, twelve men, thirteen hides, fourteen rounds of cheese and fifteen deer.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" has a **Roud Folk Song Index** number of 68. The tunes of collected versions vary. The standard tune now associated with it is derived from a 1909 arrangement of a traditional folk melody by English composer Frederic Austin, who first introduced the familiar prolongation of the verse "five gold rings".