



# What Were You Thinking?

*(based on “The Twelve Days  
of Christmas”... well, sort of)*

WORDS AND MUSIC BY

**Michael Malthaner** incorporating  
*The Twelve Days of Christmas,*  
Traditional

**Also available:**

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# What Were You Thinking?

(based on "The Twelve Days of Christmas"... well, sort of)

SATB and Piano

Words and Music by  
**Michael Malthaner**  
 Incorporating *The Twelve Days of Christmas*

Moderato ♩ = ca. 100

4 SA *mp*

TB

On the

7

first day of Christ-mas my true love gave to me

a par-tridge in a pear

Duration: approx. 3:40

For added humor, the competitive nature of the piece can be performed effectively with men and women on opposite sides of risers/stage using gestures, facial expressions, etc.

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10

Can you be-lieve it? What will I do with a bird such as that?—

tree.

On the

13

two tur-tle doves for that

sec-ond day of Christ-mas my true love gave to me

16

dumb par-tridge in a pear tree. On the third day of Christ - mas my

19

true love gave to me...

I will get ev - en! Three French— hens for those

21

How 'bout that par-tridge— in that pear tree!

*mf*

noi-sy tur-tle doves On the

24

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

*mf*

26 *mf*

We will up the an - te how 'bout four call - ing birds for those

28

cra - zy three French hens and those nois - y tur - tle doves

It start - ed with a

30

On the fifth day of Christ - mas my

par - tridge—in a pear tree!

33 *rall.* *f* *a tempo*

true love gave to me Did you say had?

*f* //

Well I had five gold-en rings!

*rall.* *f* *a tempo*

36 Oo——— Just you wait and see oh that

We're an - gry oh that

39 par - tridge in a pear tree!

par - tridge in a pear tree! On the

50 *acc.*

you can keep the cows Ten lords a leap-ing

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains the lyrics 'you can keep the cows' followed by a double bar line and 'Ten lords a leap-ing'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. An 'acc.' (accelerando) marking is placed above the second measure of the vocal line.

Nine la-dies danc-ing

*acc.*

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics 'Nine la-dies danc-ing'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. An 'acc.' marking is placed above the second measure of the vocal line.

53

Twelve drum-mers drum-ming

The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics 'Twelve drum-mers drum-ming'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

'lev-en pip-ers pip-ing Thir-teen, oh for-get it

The fourth system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics ''lev-en pip-ers pip-ing Thir-teen, oh for-get it'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. A double bar line is present at the end of the system.

56 *rit.*

This is get-ting way— out of hand!

The fifth system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics 'This is get-ting way— out of hand!'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is placed above the first measure of the vocal line.

This is get-ting way— out of hand!

*rit.*

The sixth system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics 'This is get-ting way— out of hand!'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. A 'rit.' marking is placed above the first measure of the vocal line.

59 *a tempo*

Es -

What— will we do with all the pres-ents that we bought?

*a tempo* *mf*

62 pec-'ly the fif-ty peo-ple! Yes! We have twelve drum-mers drum-ming,

Fif-ty?

65 'lev - en pip - ers pip - ing, ten lords a leap - ing, nine la - dies danc - ing,



68

eight maids a milk-ing, that makes fif-ty peo-ple

And we have to get rid of those

*rit.*

71

and those eight cows! What shall we do?

*a tempo*

birds We'll sell the

*a tempo*

74

Oh no!

five gold - en rings. We will need the

*f*

77

It star - ted with the par - tridge in a pear

cash to pay the ship - ping costs a - lone par - tridge in a pear

80

tree! What were we think - ing? Eight cows!

tree! What were we think - ing? Twen - ty three birds!

83

and a tree! No more gifts for \_you\_ and

Fif - ty peo - ple! No more gifts for you and



86

me! But, you will al-ways be my true love.

me! But, you will al-ways be my true love.

89

And that's the best Christ - mas gift — for

*ff*

92

me. \_\_\_\_\_

me. \_\_\_\_\_