

Commissioned by Bells of the Sound, Seattle, Washington

The Twelve Days of Christmas

for Handbells (3-7 Octaves)

3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 Octaves
Handbells Used: 37, (49), (60), (66), (71)

A musical score for handbells, consisting of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some accidentals (sharps and flats) indicating specific pitches. The score is a single melodic line for the handbells.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

3 octave choirs omit notes in ().

4 octave choirs omit notes in < >.

TRADITIONAL CAROL

Arranged by ARNOLD B. SHERMAN (ASCAP)

A piano accompaniment score for the first system of the carol. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The tempo is marked as quarter note = ca. 112. The music is in 4/4 time and starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The first measure is marked with a '1' above it. The lyrics "...a partridge in a pear tree..." are written above the treble staff. The piano part consists of chords and single notes in both hands.

A piano accompaniment score for the second system of the carol. It continues the grand staff from the first system. The lyrics "...two turtle doves..." are written above the treble staff. The piano part continues with chords and single notes in both hands. There are some circled notes in the treble staff, likely corresponding to the performance notes.

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DBA Handbell Musicians of America

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Musical score for measures 8-11. The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 8 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Measures 9-11 are marked *poco rit.* and *a tempo*. Measure 9 has a fermata over a half note. Measure 11 includes dynamic markings *TD* and *R*. The bass line features a triplet in measure 11.

"...three French hens..."

Musical score for measures 12-15. The time signature changes to 3/4 in measure 12 and 4/4 in measure 13. Measure 15 is marked *poco rit.* and *a tempo*. Measure 15 has a fermata over a half note. The bass line features a triplet in measure 15.

"...four calling birds..."

Musical score for measures 16-19. The time signature changes to 3/4 in measure 18 and 4/4 in measure 19. Measure 19 is marked *mp*. The bass line features a triplet in measure 19.

Musical score for measures 20-23. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measure 20 is marked *mf*. Measure 22 is marked *poco rit.* and *a tempo*. Measure 22 has a fermata over a half note. Measure 23 includes dynamic markings *Sk* and *R*. The bass line features a triplet in measure 22.

“...Five golden rings...”

24 25 26 27

rit.

28 29 30 31

a tempo

Faster (♩ = ca. 148)

“...six geese a-laying...”

32 33 34 35

poco rit. *f*

Mallet all notes through measure 42

TD HD

36 37 38

a tempo

*The gyros should be rhythmic (on the beat) and coordinated so that they are all going in the same direction at the same time. The lowest ringer should hold up his or her free hand and signal "five", as in five gold rings.

continue with mallets

Musical notation for measures 39-41. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats. Measure 39 features a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Measure 40 includes a fermata over the first half. Measure 41 continues the melodic and bass lines.

Musical notation for measures 42-44. Measures 42-44 feature a dense, rhythmic texture in the treble clef consisting of repeated chords with accents (>). The bass clef has rests in measures 42 and 43, followed by a melodic line in measure 44. Dynamics include *mp* and *f* mallet.

Musical notation for measures 45-47. Measures 45-47 feature the same dense, rhythmic texture in the treble clef as the previous system. The bass clef has a melodic line. The text “...seven swans a-swimming...” is written above the treble clef. Dynamics include *f* mallet.

Musical notation for measures 48-50. Measures 48-49 feature the dense, rhythmic texture in the treble clef. Measure 50 includes a melodic line in the treble clef with the instruction “R TD” above it. The bass clef has a melodic line. Dynamics include *f* mallet.

51 52 53

3

Slower (♩ = ca. 69)

54 55 56

R

spoken:
"Whew!"

“...Eight maids a-milking (sadly and reluctantly)...”

57 58 59 60

cresc.

61 62 63 64

f dramatically *ff* *f*

65 66 67 68

rit.

Waltz tempo (♩ = ca. 160)

69 70 71 72 73

mf mallet

R

“...nine ladies dancing...”

74 75 76 77 78

79 80 81 82 83