

LUCY

Weird. Well, you'd better talk to me. He won't be any use.

[MATT gasps, then moves to Left shaking his head.]

LUCY moves Right as the music begins. The two children stare – bemused - at MR PARTRIDGE from opposite sides of the stage as he starts to sing. First verse could be MR PARTRIDGE solo.

WHERE'S THE RING? (♪ 4 / 22)

Mr Partridge (or all)

FROM THE MOMENT YOU WERE SINGING,
TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS RINGING,
YOUR SEARCH WAS JUST BEGINNING.
WHERE'S THE RING?
WHERE'S THE RING?
GOT TO FIND THAT MISSING [RING.]

All

RING, RING, WHERE'S THE RING?
RING, RING, WHERE'S THE RING?

All

ON THE FIRST DAY AND THE SECOND
TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS BECKONED,
OR THAT WAS WHAT YOU RECKONED!
WHERE'S THE RING?
WHERE'S THE RING?
GOT TO FIND THAT MISSING [RING.]

RING, RING, WHERE'S THE RING?
RING, RING, WHERE'S THE RING?

Mr Partridge

WITHOUT THAT RING YOU WON'T SING A THING
PAST FIVE!

Mr Partridge *(spoken in time, or sung)*

NO GEESE!
NO SWANS!
NO LORDS, NO LADIES, NO MAIDS.
NO GEESE!
NO SWANS!
NO DRUMMERS, NO PIPERS, NO LORDS.

All

NO GEESE?
NO SWANS?
NO MAIDS?
NO GEESE?
NO SWANS?
NO LORDS?

All

NEARLY CHRISTMAS, TIME IS FLYING,
FIVE RINGS ARE NOT FOR BUYING.
ONE'S MISSING SO WE'RE CRYING:
WHERE'S THE RING?
WHERE'S THE RING?
GOT TO FIND THAT MISSING –
CAN YOU FIND THAT MISSING –
CAN YOU FIND THAT MISSING –
[MR P says: 1,2,3,4!]

WITHOUT THAT RING YOU WON'T SING A THING,
WITHOUT THAT RING YOU WON'T SING A THING,
WITHOUT THAT RING YOU WON'T SING A THING PAST...
FIVE!

LUCY So that was why we couldn't finish the song...

MATT *(slowly)* ...because of the missing ring?
[Lucy starts slowly clapping him]

LUCY *(sarcastically)* Well done, Matthew!

MR PARTRIDGE If you don't find the missing ring the song will never - work - again!

MATT But how can we find it?

MR PARTRIDGE You've been brought here to do it together.

LUCY *(sneeringly)* Together?

MATT *(groaning)* Must we?

MR PARTRIDGE AB-SO-LUTE-LY! It's both or nothing.

LUCY How do we start? Can you help us?

MATT *(pointing at MR P)* Him? No way!

MR PARTRIDGE What an unfriendly attitude!

LUCY He's always a pain.

MATT She thinks she knows everything.

LUCY *(exasperated)* Just ignore him. Let's get on with the job.

MASTER OF THE RINGS (© 23)

Suddenly there is dramatic and mysterious music, possibly light changes. From Upstage Centre MASTER OF THE RINGS enters followed by his assistants, FIVER, GOLDY and RINGO. Both children look alarmed and hide behind MR. PARTRIDGE.

M.O. RINGS *(in a loud and commanding voice)* Just hold on a moment! Neither of you have a clue what you need! I suggest you listen to Mr Partridge.

LUCY *(nervously)* Who are you?

M.O. RINGS I'm the Master of the Rings.

*The following lines are done in a 'rap' style, with **over-enthusiastic movement** from FIVER, GOLDY and RINGO. **Bold** words indicate the beat.*

F/G/RINGO THAT'S **MASTER OF THE RINGS**.

M.O. RINGS I'M THE **MAIN MAN HERE**.

F/G/RINGO HE'S IN **CHARGE OF THINGS**...
(with a grand gesture) ...YEAH!