

Five Gold Rings

Jo Sands & Ruth Kenward



A musical adventure in the 12 Days of Christmas

Director's Notes

Cast

TEACHER	Small speaking part.
MATT	Schoolboy. At first he's rather stropky. The sporty type.
LUCY	Schoolgirl. The academic type. At first a bit smug, a 'goody-goody'.
MR PARTRIDGE	Comical character. A bit eccentric. Solo singer (opt.).
MASTER OF THE RINGS	An impressive character, in control.
FIVER, GOLDY AND RINGO	The Master's three assistants. Cool characters. Rappers.
TURTLE DOVES (boy & girl)	Typical young teenager types.
FRENCH HENS 1,2,3	Comical characters, speak with a French accent. Group Singing (opt.).
CHORUS	Any number of extras. Dressed as if for an end of term concert.
MESSENGER	Small speaking part (only speaks in Scene 6).

Additional cast options

If you are including the 'Optional Cross-Over' in Scene 4 (page 21), you will need up to 12 drummers drumming, 11 pipers piping, 10 lords a-leaping, 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, 7 swans a-swimming, and 6 geese a-laying. (You could use smaller numbers for these and adapt the speaking parts. If not doing the 'Optional Cross-Over', children from the chorus may represent these characters for a grand finale, using masks/headgear for the finished version of 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas'.

Costume suggestions for main characters

TEACHER	Smart clothes, as adult looking as possible.
MATT & LUCY	School uniform.
MR PARTRIDGE	Tail-coat, perhaps with a ruffled shirt, or tweedy suit. Face-paint / mask / headgear to suggest that he is a partridge.
MASTER OF THE RINGS	Either 'cool' clothes, or wizard-style robes. In either case, he will need a large cloak or coat under which to steal Mr Partridge away towards the end of the show.
FIVER, GOLDY, RINGO	Same colours as the Master, to show their link with him. Either 'cool' clothes, or tabards over black trousers / leggings. Shades.
TURTLE DOVES	White clothing with beaky head-gear. Perhaps wings fixed to arms.
FRENCH HENS	Simple elasticated yellow 'beak'. Heavily stuffed long-sleeved brown tops, yellow tights and red / black shoes. Alternatively, go for the French theme, with stripy T-shirts and berets.
CALLING BIRDS	Flamboyant clothing, perhaps, feather boas, tinsel wigs or bird head-gear.

Props

Gold ring (e.g. gold-sprayed PE throwing ring). Toy mobile phones for Calling Birds. Large letters G, O, L, D and pear tree on which to hang them. Ideas for optional part of Scene 4: drums for drummers, buckets for maids, pipes for pipers, eggs for geese, water wings for swans, fans for ladies, top hats for lords.

Staging

Can be performed without any special staging, simply needs an open space. Chorus can be seated to sides or behind / below the main performing area depending upon your situation. The only essential item in the set is a large pear tree, upon which the letters G, O, L & D may be hung once they have been found. (See p.4 for diagram)

Director's Overview

SCENE 1 - The School Concert Gets Stuck

A teacher is conducting singers.

Song - RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER

Track 1 / 19

Carol - THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (5,5,5...)

Track 2 / 20

Everything becomes strange, and everyone disappears apart from two children, Matt and Lucy.

Song - ON THE FIFTH DAY...

Track 3 / 21

SCENE 2 - The School Concert Gets Stuck

It quickly becomes apparent that Matt and Lucy dislike each other. Mr Partridge appears and tells them that one of the five gold rings is missing. Everything in Twelve Days of Christmas Land has gone peculiar, just as it has in Matt and Lucy's school concert. The children's job is to find the ring so that everything can go back to normal.

Song - WHERE'S THE RING?

Track 4 / 22

We meet the Master of the Rings and his assistants: Fiver, Goldy & Ringo.

Incidental - MASTER OF THE RINGS

Track 23

The children are given a clue - they must look for G.O.L.D.

SCENE 3 - Turtle Doves

Matt and Lucy's search begins. They meet the Turtle Doves and help to end their squabbling. In doing so, they find they have a clue for the first letter of the word 'gold' - 'G' is for 'Giving'.

Carol - GOOD KING WENCESLAS

Track 5 / 24

Incidental - 'G' JINGLE

Track 6 / 25

This is the first of a set of four jingles, which are sung by Fiver, Goldy and Ringo (and the chorus) every time a letter is found.

SCENE 4 - Three French Hens

Song - BONJOUR! 'ALLO!

Track 7 / 26

The hens deliberately talk at cross purposes with Matt and Lucy for a while, expressing irritation at the fact that people don't make the effort to learn their language. They point out that although the two children are very different, they need to get along and act 'as One' if they are to succeed.

Song - ONE STEP CLOSER

Track 8 / 27

Carol - OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Track 9 / 28

The Master of the Rings returns to check on the children's progress.

Incidental - 'O' JINGLE

Track 10 / 29

SCENE 4a - Cross-Over Scene

Humorous transition scene, giving small parts for additional children as swans, geese, drummers, pipers, etc.

SCENE 5 - Four Calling Birds

Song - JUST A CALL AWAY

Track 11 / 30

The Calling Birds are having dreadful problems since the ring went missing. They're keen to help the children in the search. Lucy solves the 'L' word - 'L' is for 'Listening'.

Carol - LITTLE JESUS SWEETLY SLEEP (The Rocking Carol)

Track 12 / 31

Incidental - 'L' JINGLE

Track 13 / 32

SCENE 6 - Saving Christmas

Everyone goes to the Nine Ladies Ball.

Song - IT'LL SOON BE CHRISTMAS

Track 14 / 33

During the dancing, Mr Partidge disappears. Matt and Lucy have a major argument, which is interrupted by a messenger rushing in to tell them that the Master Of The Rings has given them a deadline. They must find Mr Partridge before three o'clock if they want to find the fifth ring. Everyone fears that Christmas may have to be cancelled if Mr Partridge can't be found. Matt and Lucy realise that something has to be done: 'D' is for 'Doing'; but they have very little time. Matt, as the fastest runner, sets off to find Mr Partridge before the deadline. Meanwhile, everyone else gets on with singing the carol beginning with 'D'.

Incidental - 'D' JINGLE

Track 15 / 34

Carol - DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

Track 16 / 35

Matt returns with Mr Partridge and the Master Of The Rings explains about the real gold of Christmas. Lucy and Matt are beginning to forget their differences at last. The ring has been found, and the Master Of The Rings sends the children on their way back home.

Song - CHRISTMAS GOLD

Track 17 / 36

Incidental - STRANGE CHANGE

Track 37

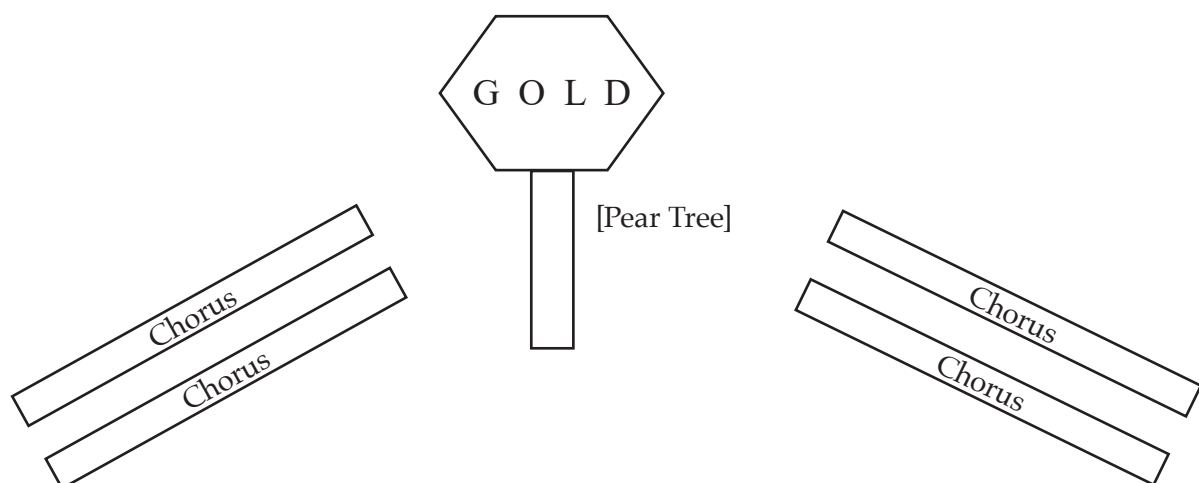
SCENE 6 - Back To The School Concert

Matt and Lucy re-materialise back at the school concert in time for the third attempt at singing 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas' from verse five onwards! This time it's successful!

Carol - THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (complete!)

Track 18 / 38

STAGING SUGGESTION



FRONT OF STAGE (Downstage)

Five Gold Rings

Scene 1 The School Concert Gets Stuck

[School hall. TEACHER stands with back to audience, conducting children (whole cast, or a selection) who fill the stage.]

RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER

(Track 1 / 19)

RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER
HAD A VERY SHINY NOSE,
AND IF YOU EVER SAW IT
YOU WOULD EVEN SAY IT GLOWS.

ALL OF THE OTHER REINDEER
USED TO SHOUT AND CALL HIM NAMES.
THEY NEVER LET POOR RUDOLPH
JOIN IN ANY REINDEER GAMES.

THEN ONE FOGGY CHRISTMAS EVE
SANTA CAME TO SAY:
"RUDOLPH WITH YOUR NOSE SO BRIGHT,
WON'T YOU GUIDE MY SLEIGH TONIGHT?"

THEN HOW THE REINDEER LOVED HIM,
AS THEY SHOUTED OUT WITH GLEE:
"RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER,
YOU'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY!
YOU'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY! *(shouted)* YEAH!"

TEACHER

(turning to the audience) Well, our Christmas concert is nearly over. You've been a wonderful audience. Now, we'll end with something really festive: 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'! Do feel free to join in!

[TEACHER turns back to the children, who sing until they get to the Five Gold Rings line - when they get 'stuck', repeating the word 'five' over and over ad lib. Eventually everything trails into silence before the Teacher's line.]

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (Track 2 / 20)

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS
MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME
A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE.

ON THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS
MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME
TWO TURTLE DOVES
AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE.

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

ON THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS
MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME
FOUR CALLING BIRDS,
THREE FRENCH HENS,
TWO TURTLE DOVES
AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE.

ON THE FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS
MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME
FIVE, FIVE, FIVE, FIVE, FIVE...

TEACHER *(embarrassed)* Oh dear! Something's gone wrong. Sorry about that!
We'll just go back to the beginning of that verse...

ON THE FIFTH DAY...

(Track 3 / 21)

...ON THE FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS
MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME
FIVE, FIVE, FIVE, FIVE, FIVE...

[As before, but everything becomes strange. Stage lights could flash as children are whirled into their base positions, calling out ad lib, eg. 'Help!' 'What's happening?' Only MATT & LUCY remain on stage, moving as if blown by a strong wind. Finally all becomes quiet and the two children finish up Downstage Right and Downstage Left - without noticing each other at first. They look around at their surroundings in a disorientated way. When MATT hears LUCY speak, he swings around to look at her.]

Scene 2 Twelve Days Of Christmas Land

LUCY Where is everybody? What's happened?

MATT *(to himself, crossly)* Oh no... Not Lucy! *(turns away)*

LUCY *(to herself)* Oh no... Not Matt! He's such a pain.
Always picking on me because I'm no good at boring old sports.

MATT *(to audience)* Lucy's useless. Can't throw, can't catch, can't run faster than a snail!

[During these lines they become louder and more aggressive.]

LUCY Your legs might work, but there's not much between your ears...

MATT I've got plenty between my ears, thank you.

LUCY So who got less than half marks in that spelling test?

MATT *(resentfully)* Nobody cares about stupid spelling.

LUCY *(scornfully)* They do if they aren't stupid!

[MR PARTRIDGE enters.]

MR PARTRIDGE Now, now, now, now, now, now... *(repeat until in position)*
This won't do! Ab - so - lute - ly not! Calm down.

LUCY *(to audience)* Who's that?

MATT *(sarcastic)* Ooh! At last! Something Lucy doesn't know!

MR PARTRIDGE *(to audience)* What a fuss, they're the worst I've heard.
(to the children) Don't say a word!

[The children stare first at him, then at each other.]

MATT *(speaking* Fine!
LUCY *together)* Suits me!

[They turn their backs on each other, folding their arms.]

MR PARTRIDGE *(crossly)* You're here for a reason, you know.
You could try to get on with each other...

LUCY *(to MR PARTRIDGE)* It's no use. He can't stand me.

MATT *(turning round)* Oh, don't listen to her. She's the bossiest girl in the class.

MR PARTRIDGE So you can't get on together whatever happens?

[MATT & LUCY pull faces at each other, and turn their backs.]

MR PARTRIDGE Absolutely not?
[MR PARTRIDGE looks from one to the other, but they're sulking.]
(to audience, with a shrug) Absolutely not, it seems!
Oh well, I suppose I'd better explain.

MATT Where are we?

LUCY Why are we here?

MR PARTRIDGE All you need to know is this:
There must always be five gold rings, but one's gone missing.
That's why your school choir couldn't finish the song. If there aren't
five gold rings here, there can't be five gold rings anywhere else!

MATT *(moving towards MR PARTRIDGE)* It sounds mad!
What are we supposed to do about it?

LUCY *(smug)* Just listen to what he says.
(to MR PARTRIDGE) Who are you, by the way?

MR PARTRIDGE My name is Mr Partridge.

MATT I don't believe it! And I suppose that ... *(indicating tree)* ...is a pear tree?

MR PARTRIDGE Most certainly.

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?

(Track 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 –

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

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, 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?

It'll Soon Be Christmas

Energetic (♩=180)

Music & Lyrics by R. Kenward & J. Sands

1

5

9

12

F B $\flat$ /F

F B $\flat$ /F C ^{7}

F B $\flat$

C ^{7} D

Christ - mas! It' - ll soon be Christ - mas! Bring it on now:

Christ - mas! Lots of fun and laugh - ter:

par - ty time! Yes, sing a - long with us now:

G Gsus⁴ D/G G Em C/E

Smi - ling fa - ces all a - round. Up a - bove the
 Let the ce - le - bra - tion start! Let the joy shine

15

D/E Em Cmaj⁷ C⁶ C

stars shine down. Christ - mas light makes day of night.
 in your heart! See the spar - kle ev - 'ry - where,

18

C/D

All a - round the town it's bright, some- thing's in the
 Feel the ma - gic in the air: Ev - 'ry - one knows

21

G C/G

air to - night Christ - mas! It' - ll soon be Christ - mas!
 it' - ll soon be

24

D⁷ G C

Bring it on now: Christ - mas! Lots of fun and laugh - ter:

28

D⁷ E

par - ty time! Yes sing a - long with us now:

32

A Asus⁴ E/A A F#m D/F#

Smi - ling fa - ces all a - round. Up a - bove the
Let the ce - le - bra - tion start! *p* Let the joy shine

35

E/F# F#m Dmaj⁷ D⁶ D

stars shine down. Christ - mas light makes day of night.
in your heart! See the spar - kle ev - 'ry - where,

38