

### *Performance Notes from the Writers*

*A Canine Christmas Concerto (The Twelve Dogs of Christmas)* is a novelty piece for the Christmas holidays. We envision it as a performance that would be rendered with mock seriousness and a certain degree of stage drama.

1. The Chorus ("Humans") needs no special costuming and may use music if necessary or may memorize their parts.
2. The Solo Group ("The Dogs") should wear exaggerated dog collars and a variety of dog ears which could be attached to caps or headbands. Studded collars would be good for the large dogs, jewelled collars for the small dogs. Formal dress for the dogs would add a really foolish and incongruous touch if you wish to go all out in costuming.
3. Dogs should be auditioned for their "barks." You may use one to three dogs on each part. It might be fun to let the students in on the audition and final selection of "barkers":
  - "arf" dogs should have high yippy voices
  - "ruff" dogs should have medium range voices
  - "woof" dogs should have low range growly voices
4. "The Dogs" vocal parts will be tricky to memorize as each stanza is different, so even if the Chorus sings from memory the stage should be set with one music stand for each dog. Black orchestral stands would create a more "formal" look than the lightweight fold-up variety.
5. Dogs may enter upright on leashes and their "owners" may unleash each dog at the appropriate music stand.
6. Solo voices in the Chorus may be assigned to individual phrases if you desire. For example, it might be fun to have one singer with a distinctive voice who always sings "and a Schnauzer with a goatee" as a solo.
7. At the close of the performance all performers may bow with a special acknowledgement for "The Dogs." Owners may leash their dogs and exit.
8. *A Canine Christmas Concerto* will make your holiday celebration memorable. (Any combination of 2-part voices may perform this piece.) It might be just the perfect closer for a Holiday "Pups" Concert!

# A CANINE CHRISTMAS CONCERTO

## (The Twelve Dogs of Christmas)

for any combination of 2-part voices and piano  
with optional SoundTrax CD\*

Words by  
**MARY KAY BEALL**

Traditional Song  
Arranged by **JOHN CARTER**

Brightly, with humor (♩ = ca. 120-126)

PIANO *mf*

4 **DOGS:** 5

High ("Arf")

Medium ("Ruff")

Low ("Woof")

**HUMANS** *mf*\*\*

On the first day of Christ - mas, my true love gave to me a

7

Arf! Arf!

Schnau - zer with a goat - ee. On the sec-ond day of Christ - mas, my

\* SoundTrax CD available (18693).

\*\* Director may choose to vary dynamics throughout.

10

true love gave to me two Great Danes and a Schnau - zer with a goat -

13

14

Arf!

Woof!

ee. On the third day of Christ - mas, my true love gave to me

16

Ruff! Ruff!

Woof! Woof!

div.

three French Poo - dles, two Great Danes, and a Schnau - zer with a goat -

19

Arf! Arf! Arf!

Ruff! Ruff!

Woof! Woof!

ee.

23

24

Arf!

Woof!

On the fourth day of Christ-mas, my true love gave to me four Col-lie dogs,

27

Arf!

Ruff!

Woof!

three French \_Poo-dles, two Great \_Danes, and a Schnau - zer \_ with a goat - ee. On the

*Suddenly slower**Suddenly slower**Suddenly slower*

fifth day of Christ - mas, my true love gave to me

five — Gold-en Re -

34

*a tempo*

Arf!

Ruff!

Woof!

*a tempo**mel.*

triev-ers; — four — Col-lie dogs, three French Poo-dles, two — Great — Danes, and a

*a tempo*

38

Arf!

Arf!

Ruff! Ruff!

Woof!

*(Mournful howling)*

Schnau-zer — with a goat — ee.

Ow - wow! Ow - wow! Ow - wow! Ow - wow! Ow -

42

Arf!

Ruff!

Woof! Woof!

44

wow! Ow - wow! - Ow - wow! On the sixth day of Christ - mas, my

45

*Suddenly slower*

Ow - wow!

Ow - wow!

Ow - wow!

*Suddenly slower*

true love gave to me six Hounds a - howl - ing, Five Gold - en Re -

*Suddenly slower*

48

*a tempo*

Woof!

*a tempo*

triev - ers; - four Col - lie dogs, three French Poo - dles, two Great - Danes, and a

*a tempo*

52

Schnau - zer — with a goat - ee! On the sev-enth day of Christ - mas, my

55

Arf! Arf! Arf!

true love gave to me sev-en Scot-ties scrap-ping, six Hounds a-howl-ing,

59

*Suddenly slower* Ow - wow - wow! *a tempo* Ruff! Woof!

*Suddenly slower* five — Gold-en Re - triev-ers; *a tempo* four — Col-lie dogs,

*Suddenly slower* *a tempo*

63

Arf!

Woof! Woof!

three French Poo-dles, two Great Danes, and a Schnau - zer with a goat -

66

Arf!

ee! On the eighth day of Christ - mas, my true love gave to me

69

Arf!

Ruff!

Woof!

Woof!

*Suddenly slower*

eight Mutts a - maul - ing,  
sev-en Scot - ties scrap - ping,  
six Hounds a - howl - ing, five Gold-en Re - triev - ers;

*Suddenly slower*

(play 3 times)



*a tempo*

Woof! Woof! Woof!

*a tempo*

four \_ Col-lie dogs, three French Poo-dles, two \_ Great \_ Danes, and a

*a tempo*

RH

loco

*All dogs barking and panting at random*

Arf!

Schnau-zer \_ with a goat \_ eel!

**Slower, as if exhausted***All stop, abruptly***Slower, as if exhausted**

On the ninth day of Christ-mas, my true love gave to me

**Slower, as if exhausted**

84 *a tempo* *Suddenly slower* *a tempo*

Arf!

Ruff!

Woof!

Woof!

*a tempo* *Suddenly slower* *a tempo*

nine — Pup-pies pranc-ing,  
 eight — Mutts a - maul-ing,  
 sev-en Scot-ties scrap-ping,  
 six — Hounds a - howl-ing, five — Gold-en Re - triev-ers; — four — Col-lie dogs,

(Play 4 times)

*a tempo* *Suddenly slower* *a tempo*

88

Arf!

three French Poo-dles, two — Great — Danes, and a — Sch-lau-zer — with a goat - ee! On the

92

tenth day of Christ-mas, my true love gave to me  
 (eleventh)  
 (twelfth)

ten Labs a - leap-ing,(etc.)\*  
 eleven Point - ers point-ing,(etc.)  
 twelve Dachs-unds drool-ing,(etc.)

repeat as needed

*Suddenly slower**a tempo*

Ruff!

Woof!

*Suddenly slower**a tempo*

five — Gold-en Re - triev-ers; — four — Col-lie dogs, three French Poo-dles,

*Suddenly slower**a tempo*

99

for "Ten" and "Eleven"

*D.S. to m. 92*

Arf!

for "Ten" and "Eleven"

*D.S. to m. 92**f*

two — Great — Danes, and a Schnau - zer — with a goat — ee! On the

*f*

102

Last time ("Twelve")

*molto rit.*

Arf!

Ruff!

Woof!

Last time ("Twelve")

*molto rit.*

Schnau - zer — with a goat — ee!

*molto rit.**ten.*