



*Written by  
Cora Alley*

## **“The Summoning of Everyman”**

*Adapted by Cora Alley  
For the Christmas Madrigal Dinner*

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15: 55, 56

*"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

**Dramatic Category:** Christmas Madrigal Dinner Theater

### **What is a “Madrigal Dinner”?**

A "Madrigal Dinner" is a trip back in time. Twelve singers dress in 16<sup>th</sup> century, English costumes and herald in the Christmas season with a harmonious concert of traditional, acappella carols. The ten members of the royal court join the King and Queen as they sit on stage in a semi-circle that opens to the audience.

The guests are seated at festively decorated tables ready to enjoy a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings: the Wassail (hot apple cider), the "boar's head" (prime rib), and Figgie Pudding (bread pudding). The King's Jester serves as the "Master of Ceremonies" for the evening, as he delights and surprises the audience with toasts, jokes, and comic asides.

A troupe of the "King's players" join the Court and present a traditional play that dates back to the time of classic European literature. The scenes of the play are woven among the courses of the meal and set up the sweet message of the Christmas carols. The audience comes away from the evening having enjoyed a delicious holiday feast, laughed and cried at the players, and marveled at the vocal talent of the ensemble.

### **NOTE:**

See the “Madrigal Checklist,” at the end of the script, to assist you in producing the wonderful evening of celebration.

**Topic:** The companionship of Jesus

**Performance Time:** 1 hour program + the concert and the meal = 2 hours total

**Number of Players:** 9 players, 12 singers, (with an option of 15+ entertainers)

**Objective:**

To illustrate that Jesus promises to be our one true companion, in this life, and forever.

**Synopsis:**

Tonight, the King's players tell the story of "Everyman," the 11<sup>th</sup> century classic morality play. It centers around the inevitable foe, Death, coming for Everyman (The Jester). He seeks company for his desperate journey as he goes to give an account of his life to God, but alas, all forsake him: his friends, his family, his riches, and even his good deeds. Finally, in desperation, "Wisdom," comes to him to share with him the good news that Jesus is the only one who will stand with us, not only while we live, but as we take our final journey as well. As we celebrate the birth of our one true companion, rejoice in Jesus for our life in Him is truly life everlasting!

**Cast:**

**The Royal Players:**

**Jester:** *A fun-loving, clownish fellow who conducts the fun*  
**Death:** *An ominous man with a booming voice*  
**Merlin:** *A magician who performs for "Death" and for the audience*  
**Fellowship:** *The "best friend" of the Jester; he wants to have fun!*  
**Kinsman:** *A rogue who has little courage*  
**Cousin:** *A woman who complains profusely*  
**Goods:** *A flamboyant, over-dressed, rich lady*  
**Deeds:** *A feeble girl, dressed in rags; so weak, she cannot stand up*  
**Wisdom:** *An ethereal woman, dressed in white*

**The Madrigal Singers:**

**The King:** *A regal gentleman in whose "castle" the evening is set*  
**The Queen:** *A gracious lady who welcomes her guests*  
**Ladies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5:** *Royal female members of the court*  
 **Lords 1, 2, 3, 4, 5:** *Royal male members of the court*

**Note:**

These 12 singers, dressed in Renaissance costumes, make up the king's court. They are an acappella singing cast, which also presents a concert of Christmas carols during the program. Mix the vocal parts as you see fit. The parts sung do not have any bearing on the parts spoken.

**Additional Cast (optional):**

*(The play does not require these people, but they add a wonderful dimension to the program)*

<b>1 Juggler:</b>	<i>entertains at mealtime</i>
<b>3 Mimes:</b>	<i>perform antics during mealtime</i>
<b>4 Minstrels:</b>	<i>serenade with instruments at mealtime, at the tables</i>
<b>Trumpeter(s):</b>	<i>signal events with fanfare</i>
<b>2 Beefeaters:</b>	<i>armored knights who stand guard at the door</i>
<b>2 Announcers:</b>	<i>announce guests by name, at the door</i>
<b>Serving girls:</b>	<i>dressed as peasants, to wait on each table (as many as you need)</i>
<b>2 Litter bearers:</b>	<i>carry in the courses of the meal</i>
<b>1 Magician:</b>	<i>entertains guests during mealtime, at their tables</i>
<b>4 Troubadours:</b>	<i>sing to guests during mealtime, at their tables</i>

**Dancers:** *They add festivity to the evening. They perform a dance number dressed as “Merry Maids” with flowing dresses and flowers in their hair; like in the days of “Robin Hood.”*

**Orphan children:** *This is an opportunity for your “children’s choir” to get involved. They sing a song to the audience during the show. Dress these elementary-aged children in rags, dirty their faces, and give them bowls to beg at the tables. Then, put chocolate “gold coins” on each table and let the people give them to the children when they come by.*

**Disgruntled Serving Girls:** *An ensemble of six women who work up a few songs that are off-pitch, and silly in nature. They are generally irritated that their voices are not good enough to be one of those “uppity Madrigal Singers.” After all, “We clean up real nice, too!”*

**Costumes:**

Dress in Renaissance and medieval costumes. See specific cast descriptions above, for costuming suggestions.

**Props:**

Set the King’s table for a traditional Renaissance Christmas feast  
Gold-wrapped, chocolate coins (for “Orphan Chorus” option)  
2 Swords

**Lights:**

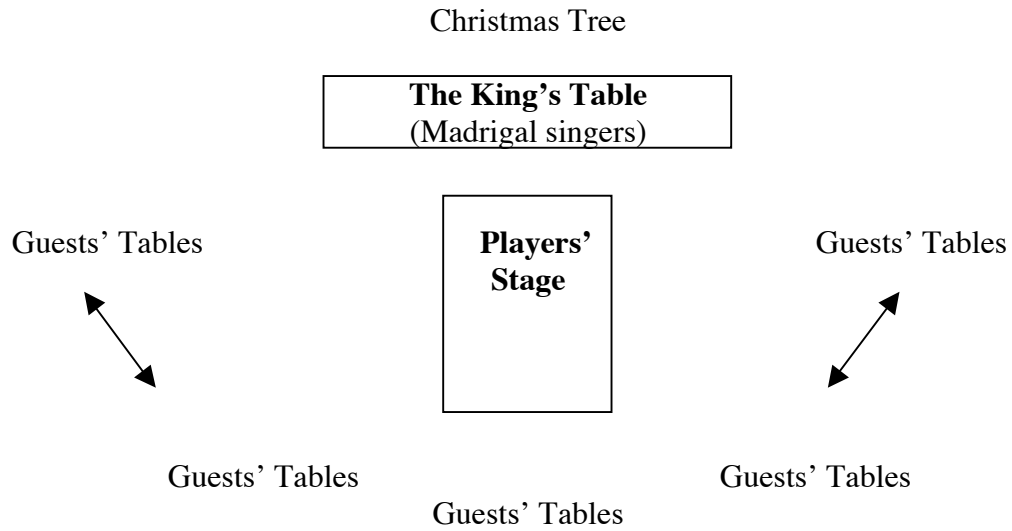
Design the lighting in such a way that the players and King’s Court are highlighted according to their dominance in the program.

**Sound:**

Microphones for the singers, at the table  
Wireless mics for the actors with lines, who aren’t at the table

**Staging:**

If you can “transform” your room into a “castle hall” with “theater-in-the-round” seating, it will enhance the “ambience” of the evening. Here is a suggested diagram:



## A Guide to 16th Century English Christmas Customs

**Wassail** - The festive holiday drink from the Anglo-Saxon, “Wes-hal,” means “be whole.” The old wassail bowls, usually of silver or pewter, were immense. It was the custom of the stewards upon entering the banquet hall to call out, “Wassail, Wassail,” and this was answered by the host and the guests alike with song or carol. A forerunner was “lamb’s wool,” a mixture of hot ale, sugar, spices, eggs, and roasted apples. Thick cream was sometimes added. It was served in the wassail bowl with pieces of toast floating on top. Hence, the origin of the drinking toast.

**Boar’s Head** - Traditionally, this is the heart of the Christmas feast. Its mouth propped open with an apple, the head was brought in on a silver dish, to a fanfare and a special carol. Its origin comes from Psalm 80, in which Satan is the “boar out of the wood.” The head of the slain boar, paraded about the Great Hall, showed the defeat of Satan by the newborn Christ child. The master of the house would take an oath upon it to perform some charitable deed, and often the other gentlemen seated at the table would follow suit.

**Flaming Plum Pudding** - Everyone in the household stirred the plum pudding and made a wish. If a trinket were found in the piece one ate, the wish would come true; consequently, it became known as “Figgie Pudding.”

**The Twelve Days of Christmas** - Known liturgically as Epiphany, representing the traditional time of the journey of the Magi to worship the Christ child. The twelve days were a time of great feasting, celebration, singing of madrigals and carols, plays and general merry making.

**Madrigals** - A vocal music idiom from the 14th and 15th century in Italy, the madrigals developed chiefly in the 16th century in England. The word has its origin in either Mandrialis (pastoral song), or matricials (in the mother tongue). English madrigals were variously called songs, sonnets, canzonets, and ayres.

### **Instruction for the beginning:**

Do a cheery job of decorating the set like an old English castle. Use coats of arms, banners, swords, thrones, drapes of rich tapestry, etc. The Christmas tree should be magnificent, the wreaths and centerpieces should be studded with decorations and lights, and the entire mood should be magical.

Set all the tables with china and good glassware. No paper plates. Outfit each table with rolls and fill the water glasses. People want something to eat and drink the minute they arrive. Hungry people are generally grumpy!

Light the candles, dim the lights and instruct the minstrels to roam the house playing their instruments while the guests enter. The “announcers,” welcome each guest and shout out his/her name (i.e. “The Lord and Lady Parker”). Servers wait inside the hall near the door, with their guest list for their table in hand. When they hear a name called that is assigned to their table, they come to the door and escort them to their table. Mimes and the magician can entertain the guests.

### **Caution:**

Assign the mimes, the musician, and the juggler, various parts of the house at various times, so they do not wear out their welcome by frequenting the same part of the house all night.

## The Script:

### Fanfare 1

*(The trumpeters enter and march around the hall. They meet at the front of the King's table.)*

### (Prologue)

**Jester:** *(He enters the hall with exuberance)*  
Alas dear guests, you've come again,  
To escape life's sorrow, strife, and pain!  
So gaily clad in handsome dress,  
No doubt this royal mob you'll impress. *(aside)*

Unstick thy mind from present day,  
Let it come with us, let it fly away.  
On wings of laughter, wings of song,  
Wings that carry each along  
To a special time and a special place,  
That magically, mystically, cares erase.

This room is now a castle hall,  
And we are players--one and all.

### Option: "Merry Maids" Dance

*(They enter the hall, giggling. The Jester notices them.)*

Oh what lovely things are girls!  
Their beauty, like a rose, unfurls.

*(He is obviously caught up in the show of lovely ladies. He slaps his own face, and comes to his senses.)*

Well, let's be on with it, I pray  
For all too soon comes morrow's day

This blessed night of feasts and mirth,  
Will herald in our Savior's birth!

Oh merry night for Yuletide cheer,  
Your long awaited time in here!

Now, least you seem like famished fools,  
You must obey my simple rules,

*(He takes out a scroll he finds on the royal table, and reads)*

Please be cordial, never rude,  
And do not steal your neighbor's food.

Eating with fingers will make a mess,  
So, wipe them on your lady's dress.

And if you feel the need to spit;  
Please wait until the singers quit.

*(Death enters from the side of the castle and stands near the Jester; he unnerves the Jester)*

Pardon, good sir, or I'll loose my place,  
And these good folk will become a disgrace,

I'm instructing them in behaviors at table  
Or the King will think them all born in a stable.

**Death:** I have come for Everyman.

**Jester:** And who might you be who has the gall  
To interrupt my instructions in this gala hall?

**Death:** I am death whom you cannot ban,  
I come for you, if you be Everyman.

**Jester:** Death! *(backing away)* No! You're quite the contestor,  
I'm not Everyman! I'm Everyjester!

**Death:** Your Maker bids; it's you I summon!

**Jester:** *(disguising his voice to sound like a woman)*  
I'm not Everyman;  
I'm Everywoman!

**Death:** Prepare thy book of reckoning.  
To set before the Lord Heaven King.

Good deeds so weak and sins so bad,  
Your days, your nights, and goods you've had.

**Jester:** Good Sir, you 'err; I'm not a sinner  
I must conduct this madrigal dinner!

I pray thee, go! Find some other sport,  
Here come the singers! They enter the court!

*(The Jester makes a wide circle around Death and moves to the furthest side of the room . He makes a quick escape while Death turns to follow at a distance.)*

**Processional:**

*(The madrigal singers enter as they sing a Christmas carol. “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” is a favorite. They line up at opposite doors as they enter, weave through the audience as they sing, meet at the front, curtsy and bow to each other, and finally the Ladies are escorted to their seats by the Lords.)*

**King:** *(opens his arms wide, welcoming everyone)*

Welcome guests from far and wide,  
From hill, and vale, and countryside,

My bounty is yours; eat, drink, and be merry!  
With jests and fine song this party will terry!

The feast is before us beyond all compare,  
Let us bow to our maker in most humble prayer

**Opening Prayer:**

*(This could be a prayer that is sung. All madrigals remain standing.)*

We thank Thee, Lord, for this fine feast tonight as we gather together to honor you.  
In your beloved Son, you have given us hope, life eternal, and joy beyond measure.

*(The madrigal singers take their seats at the table after the prayer.)*

**Queen:** Good friends we begin tonight, not with ale,  
But with my own exquisite wassail!  
Right there on you table; pour it out hot,  
Enjoy it, dear guests, it's all that all that we've got.

**SONG: Wassail Song**  
“Wassail, Wassail all over the town...”

*(A bowl of apple-colored gelatin that “looks like cider, but isn't” is carried by the pages on a litter. It is paraded around the house and stops at the king's table for approval. The King rises, survey's the cider and nods. He waves the pages on, and they exit.)*

**WASSAIL SERVED:**

*(The hot apple cider brought out by the servers.)*



## Scene 1: "Toasts & Death's Decree"

**King:** A toast, a toast, raise your glasses high!  
To a season of cheer! Here's mud in your eye!

*(The King & his court raise their glasses to drink, but the Queen stops him, and the others stop, too.)*

**Queen:** Thy toast, dear husband, was really quite plain,  
I pray thee, my love, try it again.

**King:** Plain? Again? Ah, my throat is too dry,  
If it's wit that you want, ask the Jester to try.

**Queen:** *(She looks around for the Jester, claps her hands, but he does not appear.)*

Good husband, the prankster, so known for his chiding,  
Is absent tonight, I fear he is hiding.

**King:** *(Standing up and looking around for the Jester)*  
If our fool is absent, his head I will sever,  
I want him here now, just as clever as ever!

**Jester:** *(enters and sheepishly bows before the King.)*  
Your pardon, my king, I'll conduct your fun,  
There was a nasty intruder, I had to outrun!

**King:** Begone with excuses, the queen wants some jests,

**Queen:** With wit and with rhyme,  
make some toasts for our guests.

*(The jester walks in among the audience and begins to chat with them. He runs quickly to several couples)*

**Jester:** Our first toast will go, I am afraid,  
To the cad who brought the youngest maid!

*(He searches in the audience and asks who is the youngest woman. He eliminates them until he finds her to her escort he scolds:)*

Confess, you rouse, you've stolen a child;  
Pray her father won't find you, he's apt to go wild.

**Jester:** A toast to these children!

*(The court and the audience raise their glasses and quickly confer on the first line of the toast.)*

**The Court:** May the Lord pour his blessings on all that you do,  
*(They motion in unison to the Jester to complete the rhyme.)*

**Jester:** *(hesitating and giving himself time to think)*  
May your children be many, and your problems be few!  
*(Cheers from the court and requests for more)*

Who has weathered life's storms,  
and emerged yet the boldest,  
At which table tonight, sits the man who is oldest?

*(He repeats the search for the oldest man. When He finds him, the jester informs the court.)*

Here sits the man who is gifted with age!  
His wisdom awards him the title of, "Sage."

**The Court:** *(after conferring briefly and raising their glasses again)*

May you stay in good health,  
and your years yet be many.  
*(again they motion to the Jester.)*

**Jester:** And your wealth in this world;  
come to more than a penny!  
*(The court cheers and motions to the jester to go on.)*

Now which couple among you has been the most dutiful,  
And raised a large brood, thus being quite fruitful!

*(again he searches for the couple who has the most children.)*

I have found the couple, your grace,  
Who has populated half of our race!

**The Court:** *(After their conference, they raise their glasses and say:)*

May your children bring you honor and never an ill,  
  
*(They motion to the Jester again:)*

**Jester:** Clean up after themselves, not stick you with the bill!

**King:** So, my wife, have these toasts been sufficient?

**Queen:** In toasting, our Jester is once more proficient!

*(Death re-appears by the door and motions to the Jester to come)*

**King:** Well done, good Jester, you have reason to boast,  
But, my belly's not filled by a series of toasts.  
If you really want us to think you quite good.  
Get those servers in order and bring out the food!

**Jester:** *(The Jester is unnerved at seeing Death appear again)*  
Your grace, I confess, I'm really quite frantic.

**Lord 1:** Spill it then, fool, why are you in a panic?

**Jester:** Yon stranger, by the door, he beckons me to come.

**Lady 1:** Tell him you can't, you have work to be done.

**Jester:** I've tried to outrun him, he won't be put off!

**Lord 2:** Tell him you're ailing; you've got a slight cough!

**Lady 2:** You must bring in the food!

**Lord 3:** You heard your good king!

**Lady 3:** Tell the man at the door you just can't follow him.

**Lord 4:** Stall him off with a farthing,

**Lady 4:** Or a ha-penny might do.

**Lord 5:** But get through to him, fool,

**Lady 5:** He just can't have you!

**Jester:** I can't put him off, not with illness or wealth,  
The man at the door... His name is Death!

*(The court reacts in shock!)*

**Queen:** Good Jester, your plight is truly remorseful,  
I fear that now you must be most resourceful!

**King:** I could muster compassion on your fortune so crummy,  
If I had at least a salad to fill up my tummy!

**Queen:** For you, this night is potentially tragic!  
I pray you, consult Merlin for his magic.

*(The Jester is eager to leave and starts running away.)*

**King:** Before you go running away half-cocked.  
I tell you my stomach will not be mocked.  
Unless I have crisp salad on the double.  
I'll kill you myself, and save Death the trouble!

**Jester:** As if I don't have enough on my mind,  
My King is flippant and very unkind.  
So away with you servers, bring on the crisp salad.  
May all of you find it agrees with your pallet.

*(The Jester leaves and Death follows him down the center aisle.)*

### **SALAD IS SERVED:**

*(Play some Old English harpsichord-type music)*

### **Fanfare 2**

**Queen:** Look my love, the Magician is here.  
Do you think he can really make death disappear?

**King:** Magic indeed; now there's a tall order;  
*(Giggles of the servers, entering from the side, interrupt him.)*

Look, here come the servers... *(to the guests)*  
Just toss them a quarter.

**Option:** **The "Disgruntled Servers" Perform a Song.**  
*(The reactions of the Madrigal singers are shock and distaste.)*

### **Scene 2: "Merlin and The Court"**

*(The Jester sees Merlin, the magician. The Jester looks behind him to see that Death has not followed.)*

**Jester:** So will you help me be rid of my fear?  
Will you teach the words to make death disappear?

**Merlin:** Ah, 'tis dangerous this chant; it must be done just so!  
With the slightest mistake, it backfires, you know.

**Jester:** Backfires? What will happen if I goof?

**Merlin:** If you mess up this chant,  
the wrong thing might go, "poof."

*(Merlin does a simple disappearing trick with a coin. He waves his wand around the coin and chants:)*

"Snake scales and vulture bones,  
Goose liver and muddy stones,  
Eye of newt so round and clear,  
Make this coin disappear!"

**Jester:** *(Seeing Death enter the hall)*  
Stop! Come no further into his hall.  
I'll go with you now; no more will I stall.  
*(The Jester grabs Merlin's wand and points it at Death)*

**Merlin:** Wait! *(Merlin runs over and stands beside Death)*  
You're only a novice! An apprentice at best!  
If you do the chant now,,, *(He is cut off by the Jester)*

**Jester:** Ah... *(Merlin WATCHES FROM THE PLATFORM)*  
  
Snake scales, and ah... bones of bird,  
And something about liver and stones...  
Ah... eye of newt and something's rear,  
Make Death disappear!

*(He frantically waves the wand, Merlin screams, and Merlin disappears. Death stands stoically and unaffected. The court laughs, but the Jester stares, dismayed!)*

**Lord 2:** This Death whom you battle, he has a hard heart.

**Lady 4:** Maybe music will melt him, and make him depart.

**Jester:** Excellent plan! With the minstrel I'll side,  
Soon the distance between us *(He motions to Death)*  
will be very wide.

Good minstrel, your pardon, please play your chords,  
Enchant all our guests and these ladies and lords.  
That stern man in the corner, please make him depart.  
His plan is to stop the beating of my heart!

*(The minstrel plays some classical music, but he is unable to make Death move. He strolls out of the hall and nods to the Jester in apology.)*

**Lady 3:** Dear Jester, I fear your sentence sticks!

**Lord 1:** Death is not falling for any of your tricks!

**Lady 5:** I'm afraid, Death knows you're a faker,  
**Lord 3:** If I were you, I'd prepare to meet my maker!  
**Lady 2:** Don't chide him, my friends; can't you see his knees shaking.  
**Lord 4:** No wonder, he's found himself with a grave undertaking!  
*(The court roars at the pun; the king pounds his knife & fork)*

**King:** Enough, enough!  
I've finished my salad, and the Jester's not dead!  
So away all this dribble, bring on the boar's head!

**Queen:** Have mercy, My Lord; can't you see he's destroyed.  
He's run out of hope; all his tricks he's employed.

*(Jester hurries over to Death and pleads.)*

**Jester:** My Lord has commanded I bring on the feast,  
Can't you wait 'till I finish my labors at least?

*(Death nods his head in agreement.)*

I don't believe this. I'm just barely grown,  
And now I must face death all alone?

**Death:** I never said you would stand there alone.  
Take company with you, then they'll hear you moan.

**Jester:** Who will go with me and not faint or quit?

**Death:** Your fellows, your kinsman, your goods, or your wit.

**Jester:** I'll go find them at once! They'll lessen my dread.

**King:** *(stopping him as the Jester runs out of the room)*  
Before you expire, bring on the boar's head!

**Jester:** Ah, yes, the main course, please do bring it in,  
While I ponder a way to save my dear skin! *(Jester exits)*

**SONG: The Boar's Head**

*(A pig's head, carried by the litter-bearers on a litter, is paraded around the hall and stops at the King's table for approval. The King rises, survey's the head and nods. He waves the pages on, and they exit.)*

**Option:** “Orphan Chorus” (sung by the “orphan children”)

**Queen:** *(After the exit of the boar’s head, the Queen notices the children.)*  
Not all are as rich to dine on meat pies...

*(The orphans enter the north end of the ramp and begin to chatter.)*

Here come the children; look deep in their eyes.  
These orphans are pitiful; be gracious dear guests,  
Give what you can; God will do the rest.

*(The children perform their song, then stroll among the audience singing for three tables at a time. The people seated at the tables give the children gold foil-wrapped candy in the shape of money which was laid on the tables beforehand.)*

### **THE MEAL IS SERVED:**

*(Throughout the meal, the magician does tricks, and the minstrel(s) play. Jugglers stroll among the audience also as the musicians play throughout the meal. When the meal is finished, the trumpeters enter.)*

### **Fanfare 3**

### **Scene 3: “Fellowship”**

*(When the fanfare is finished, the King gets everyone's attention and asks:)*

**King:** I have not seen the Jester sup,  
Do you suppose that Death has snatched him up?

**Queen:** No my Lord, he will survive,  
The Jester comes; he's quite alive!

*(The Jester enters down center. He is of good spirits and addresses the audience as he walks. His friend, “Fellowship,” enters the room.)*

**Jester:** I need not face death all alone,  
If I can find just one to own,  
My sorrow, and help me account for my life  
And stand beside me at this time of great strife.  
Ah, there stands "Fellowship," my trusted friend  
He will go with me, to my bitter end!

**Fellowship:** Everyman, my friend, good morrow!  
Why are you so sad? Do you carry some sorrow?

**Jester:** Yes good fellowship, yes.  
I'm in dastardly mess!

**Fellowship:** My true friend, show me your mind.  
I will not forsake thee. Our friendship will bind.  
*(Unleashing his sword and adopting a fighting stance.)*

Has some scoundrel wronged thee? Speak, my friend.  
I'll fight for thy honor, even to my life's end.  
En guard!

*(Fellowship tosses a sword, which is lying on the ramp, to the Jester, and using his unleashed sword to begin a good-natured joust.)*

**SWORD FIGHT:**

*(They fight along the ramp with the Jester always trying to speak his plight, but Fellowship shouts over him with war cries.)*

**Jester:** *(At the end of their fight scene)*  
Mercy, good friend... I haven't the heart.  
I pray you... here's where my troubles start.

**Fellowship:** I'm your friend... to the end!

*(He salutes him with his sword, and they engage in conversation while walking along the ramp, back toward the stage.)*

**Jester:** Well spoken dear comrade, you shall know my heaviness  
I've a journey to take that brings me distress.

**Fellowship:** Then I shall go with you on this sad journey,  
You shall have me for company.  
Now, pray, tell me where are we going?  
Will it be spring there, or will it be snowing?

**Jester:** Where we are headed, there aren't any seasons,  
You'll stand beside me as I give the reasons,  
To our Great God in Heaven for all I have done,  
Now that the days of my life are all gone.

**Fellowship:** You're going to stand before almighty God?

**Jester:** Yes, I must stand before the Judge "Adoni"  
He calls for me, my case He will try.

**Fellowship:** I must be sure I've got this straight.  
The Heaven-King calls you, and He will not wait?



**Jester:** Yes, you said you'd go with me, so courage I'd find.  
Don't tell me, dear friend, that you've now changed your mind.

**Fellowship:** I imagined adventures with battles and fencing,  
With fine ale to drink and time to go wenching!  
But if you are headed to the Almighty's throne,  
I'm afraid you'll have to go there alone!

**Jester:** But Fellowship, you said that beside me you'd walk!

**Fellowship:** And you were a simpleton to believe such talk!  
*(fellowship exits and the Jester sits dismayed)*

**King:** *(Calling to the Jester.)*  
I say old chap. You're in the pits?  
Sorry, but you can't call it quits.  
Our feast was fine; now something sweet.

*(The Jester ignores the King)*  
The dessert, ol' boy; get on your feet!

**Jester:** *(Dejected and sad, the Jester rises)*  
Away with you servers, bring on the pies.  
While I find a towel to dry off my eyes.

**SONG: "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"**

*(A bowl of bread pudding with "sterno" cans, that have been lit, creates a blazing "Figgie Pudding" look as it is carried by the litter-bearers. It is paraded around the room and stops at the King's table for approval. The King rises, survey's the cider and nods. He waves the pages on, and they exit.)*

**DESSERT IS SERVED:**

**Option: "Disgruntled Servers" Song 2**

*(A song about friends who let you down would be an option here.)*

**Fanfare 4**

**Scene 4: "Kinsman and Cousin"**

**Jester:** Where shall I for comfort flee?  
Now that fellowship has forsaken me?  
Ah, to my kinsmen I'll make my way,  
For family will stay when friends fall away.  
There are cousin and kinsman, they'll pass this great test.  
They'll go with me I trust, they'll not be like the rest.

**Kinsman:** Good cousin, why do you wear such a frown?  
Come with us, we're off to paint up the town!

**Cousin:** Hail cousin; tell us what is the matter!

**Kinsman:** You know that blood runs thicker than water.

**Jester:** Tell me first there's nothing that our bond can sever,

**Kinsman & Cousin:** No, nothing, not ever!

**Jester:** I've been called on a journey that cannot wait,  
Once there, I must give a reckoning straight.  
Of all of my works, how my days were all used,  
Even the ill deeds, how my life I've abused.  
Therefore I pray you go thither with me,  
To help make my account to the high trinity!  
Assure me now, that with me you'll go?

**Cousin:** I would if I could, but I've a cramp in my toe!  
*(She grabs her toe and hobbles off.)*

**Jester:** That's lamely answered!

**Cousin:** Even so, it's still "No!" *(cousin exits)*

**Kinsman:** Our cousin is gone, she's forgotten she's lame.  
The way she deserted you is truly a shame.

**Jester:** The difference between you is shown by the deed.  
What say you, my kinsman?

**Kinsman:** I wish you God's speed!  
Yet, I'll loan you my wife, so you'll not be alone  
  
*(aside to the audience)*  
I might as well kill two birds with one stone.  
  
You can ask her to go, if you can stop her tongue,  
Though I've not seen it stopped since I was quite young.

**Jester:** Then you'll leave me, too?

**Kinsman:** In a word, though it's French, I bid you "Adieu!"

**Jester:** 'tis Latin, not French!

**Kinsman:** 'twill work in a pinch! (*Kinsman exits*)

**Scene 5: “Goods”**

**Jester:** My kinsmen and friends will no escort provide,  
I loose time as I ponder... death won't be denied.  
Ah, I know who will stand beside me full measure,  
My goods and my riches... my earthly treasure.  
Now, to find him amid all these woods,  
Where are you my riches, my earthly goods?

**Goods:** (*Stands proudly in a prominent place*)  
I'm here, Everyman, speak your words in haste!  
We've got riches to collect and fine food to taste!

**Jester:** All my life I have love thee, and had great pleasure,  
For you have been my earthly treasure.  
Now, I must away on a journey that worries me so,  
You must stand beside me;  
your strength you must show!

**Goods:** Sir, if in this world you have sorry or adversity,  
You can bank on me to be your security.

**Jester:** It is said, "Money makes all right that is wrong."  
Stand beside me at my grave; God calls before long!

**Goods:** For that trip I'm too brittle to endure,  
I'll not follow one step, of that be ye sure!

**Jester:** But all of my life, I've taken pleasure in thee,  
I pray thee now, please go with me!

**Goods:** You should have loved me in moderation,  
And given to the poor, not my adoration.  
Thoughtest thou, that I am thine?

**Jester:** I had thought so...

**Goods:** 'Twas my design,  
As for a while I was lent to thee;  
A season thou hast has me in prosperity.  
My disposition is man's soul to kill,  
I think of you I've had my fill.  
When thou art dead, this is my plan,  
To deceive yet another indulgent little man.

(*Goods exits*)

## Scene 6: “Deeds”

**Jester:** Of my friends, my kinsman, and my goods none remain,  
Where can I take shelter? Who will carry my pain?  
There's no word, or no gift, or no plea I can make,  
When before the Lord God my account I must take.

**Deeds:** *(Crawling and reaching for the Jester and speaking weakly)*  
Everyman, I hear you are smitten,  
With desperate news I hear tell you are bitten.

**Jester:** *(helping Deeds to his feet)*  
My good Deeds. You've come beside me to stand?

**Deeds:** Well, if that is your plan, you must give me a hand.  
I'm not very strong; if support's your intention,  
Throughout your life, I should have had more attention.

**Jester:** Indeed you are right, my good Deeds do lag,  
Look at you, you wobble, and you're dressed in a rag.

**Deeds:** All your days you've just kicked me into the ditches,  
You spent all your energy on good times and riches!  
I know the account to Jehovah you must make,  
And I've come here to tell you, the journey I'll take.  
*(Deeds stumbles along, and falls )*

**Jester:** It's no use! I can't bring you beside me.  
You're too weak and small; I know you can't hide me.  
Hope is lost for me now; no one for me will speak!  
Kinsmen, riches are gone, and my good Deeds are too weak

*(Wisdom enters from behind Everyman as he collapses with his good Deeds underneath him.)*

## Scene 7: “Wisdom”

**Wisdom:** Rise Everyman, doth not wisdom call?  
Though your deeds are but rags and are no help at all,  
You must seek "Grace" to gain hope for the end,  
Then you'll enter God's presence---there eternity to spend.

**Jester:** Oh wisdom, you speak to my soul's deepest need.  
If I could believe, to that "Grace" I would speed.

**Wisdom:** Then enter the house of salvation... 'tis close by,  
Repent of your misdeeds and on His work rely!  
Jesus was crucified all men for to save,  
Let this be your hope as you come to the grave.

**Jester:** But all have forsaken me, all that I seek!  
Cousin, Kinsmen, riches, and my good Deeds are weak!

**Wisdom:** Your sins are all held in His nail-pierced hand,  
Christ is the only one who beside you will stand.  
Your hope is in Him who has died and is risen,  
Believe and repent through your holy baptism.

*(Special effect lighting and theater smoke would be effective here. These lines are delivered as the two walk toward heaven.)*

**Jester:** Then I shall enter His holy place,  
And there find comfort in God's grace.  
All else have failed me in all in this land,  
Now my blessed Lord beside me will stand.  
*(Wisdom helps Everyman usher Good deeds through the door as they exit.)*

**King:** Dear guests, you have seen a sobering plot,  
Placed oddly enough in this holiday slot,  
But let us be mindful as we sing of Christ's birth,  
That it's only in Him we will find our true worth.

In this season we remember what His coming means,  
His birth in that stable all mankind redeems,  
Let your soul find refreshment, and your spirit rejoice  
As we madrigals hail Him in harmonious voice!

### **THE CONCERT:**

*(This is 6-8 old-English Christmas carols arranged for 12 acappella voices. The standard favorite in this set is "The Twelve Days of Christmas," with hand-motions. A really funny gag, is to have one of the Lords try in vain to lay a golden egg each time his turn comes in the song. At the very end, he produces a golden egg, and the court applauds his efforts.)*

## **THE BENEDICTION:**

**Queen:** Our evening, dear friends has come to an end,  
And all of you I heartily commend,  
  
Your warmth and your humor have been our delight,  
And we wish you God's speed as you homeward tonight.

**King:** I'll echo my Queen as she commends your grace.  
Your Christian charity shines on each face.  
  
Please join us now in this most loved carol,  
"Silent Night" as the Yuletide we herald.

## **THE RECESSIONAL:**

*(The court exits in much the same way as they entered. They stand in among the audience as they sing "Silent Night.")*

**The End**

## **NOTE:**

The following "Cheat Script" is a handy tool to put at the King's table for the singers; also, place this at all the entrances and exits for the players. This sequence of events can get confusing for even the most seasoned performers, and the last thing you want is for fine talent, dressed in their Elizabethan finery, to suffer from a brain vacation.

# “The Summoning of Everyman”

- *Ye Old Cheat Sheet* -

## Fanfare 1 (Prologue)

**Jester:** Alas dear guests, you've come again...

## Option: “Merry Maids”

Oh what lovely things are girls!  
Well, let's be on with it, I pray...

**Death:** I have come for everyman...

## Processional

**King:** Welcome guests from far and wide...

## Opening Prayer

**Queen:** Good friends we begin tonight, not with ale...

## Serve The Wassail

### Scene 1: “Toasts and Death’s Decree”

**King:** A toast, a toast, raise your glasses high!

**Jester:** (*After the toasts, unnerved at seeing Death appear again*)  
Your grace, I confess, I'm really quite frantic!

## Serve The Salad

## Fanfare 2

**Queen:** Look, my love, the Magician is here...

## Option: “Disgruntled Servers” Song

### Scene 2: “Merlin and The Court”

**Jester:** So will you help me be rid of my fear?

**Lady 3:** Dear Jester, I fear your sentence sticks!

**Death:** I never said you would stand there alone...

**King:** Before you expire, bring on the boar's head!

## Boar's Head Song

## Option: “Orphan Chorus”

**Queen:** Not all are a rich to dine on meat pies...

## Serve The Meal

### Fanfare 3

#### Scene 3:

**King:** I have not seen the Jester sup...

**Fellowship:** Everyman, my friend, good morrow!

### Sword Fight

**King:** I say old chap. You're in the pits?

**Jester:** Away with you servers, bring on the pies...

### Song: "Wish You A Merry Christmas"

### Serve The Dessert

### Option: "Disgruntled Servers" Song 2

### Fanfare 4

#### Scene 4: "Kinsman and Cousin"

**Jester:** Where shall I for comfort flee?

**Kinsman:** Good cousin, why do you wear such a frown?

#### Scene 5: "Goods"

**Jester:** My kinsmen and friends will no escort provide...

**Goods:** I'm here, Everyman, speak your words in haste...

#### Scene 6: "Deeds"

**Deeds:** Everyman, I hear you are smitten...

#### Scene 7: "Wisdom"

**Wisdom:** Rise Everyman, doth not wisdom call?

**King:** Dear guests, you have seen a sobering plot...

### The Concert

### The Benediction

**Queen:** Our evening, dear friends has come to an end...

### Recessional

## The End



# Madrigal Checklist

## Costumes

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Beefeaters* | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving girls*    | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Troubadours* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Minstrels*  | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Mimes*          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Jester       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Magician*   | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Singers        | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Juggler*     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Announcers* | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Litter-bearers* | <input type="checkbox"/> Trumpeter(s)*  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancers*      | <input type="checkbox"/> Orphan children*  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death         | <input type="checkbox"/> Merlin            | <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kinsman       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cousin            | <input type="checkbox"/> Goods          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deeds         |  |   |

\* **Optional cast members**

## Publicity

- |                                       |  |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Church paper  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town marquee | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers        | <input type="checkbox"/> Posters  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tickets made | <input type="checkbox"/> Tickets sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs |

## Rehearsals & Performances

- Production Calendar

## Technical

- |                                   |                                 |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sound    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Tables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Props  | <input type="checkbox"/> Set    |

## Decorations

- |                                 |   |                                   |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Madrigal table | <input type="checkbox"/> House    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foyer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest tables   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up |

## Entertainment

- |                                    |                                      |                                  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minstrels | <input type="checkbox"/> Troubadours | <input type="checkbox"/> Mimes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magician  | <input type="checkbox"/> Jester      | <input type="checkbox"/> Callers |

## Food Service

- |                               |                                   |                                    |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Menu | <input type="checkbox"/> Caterers | <input type="checkbox"/> Cast/Crew |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|