

START

SLEEP MY CHILD AND PEACE ATTEND THEE ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT
 GAURDIAN ANGELS GOD WILL SEND THEE ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT
 SOFT THE DROWSY HOURS ARE CREEPING HILL AND VALE IN
 SLUMBER SLEEPING I MY LOVING VIGIL KEEPING
 END
 ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT

Lyrics

Welsh

Holl amrantau'r sêr ddywedant
 Ar hyd y nos
 "Dyma'r ffordd i fro gogoniant,"
 Ar hyd y nos.
 Golau arall yw tywyllwch
 I arddangos gwir brydferthwch
 Teulu'r nefoedd mewn tawelwch
 Ar hyd y nos.
 O mor siriol, gwena seren
 Ar hyd y nos
 I oleuo'i chwaer ddaearen
 Ar hyd y nos.
 Nos yw henaint pan ddaw cystudd
 Ond i harddu dyn a'i hwyrddydd
 Rhown ein golau gwan i'n gilydd
 Ar hyd y nos.

Translation

All the stars' twinkles say
 All through the night
 "This is the way to the realm of glory,"
 All through the night.
 Other light is darkness
 To show true beauty
 The Heavenly family in peace
 All through the night.
 O, how cheerful smiles the star,
 All through the night

To light its earthly sister
 All through the night.
 Old age is night when affliction comes
 But to beautify man in his late days
 We'll put our weak light together
 All through the night.

English lyrics by Sir Harold Boulton in 1884

Sleep my child and peace attend thee,
 All through the night
 Guardian angels God will send thee,
 All through the night
 Soft the drowsy hours are creeping
 Hill and vale in slumber steeping,
 I my loving vigil keeping
 All through the night.
 While the moon her watch is keeping
 All through the night
 While the weary world is sleeping
 All through the night
 O'er thy spirit gently stealing
 Visions of delight revealing
 Breathes a pure and holy feeling
 All through the night.

Alternative second verse:

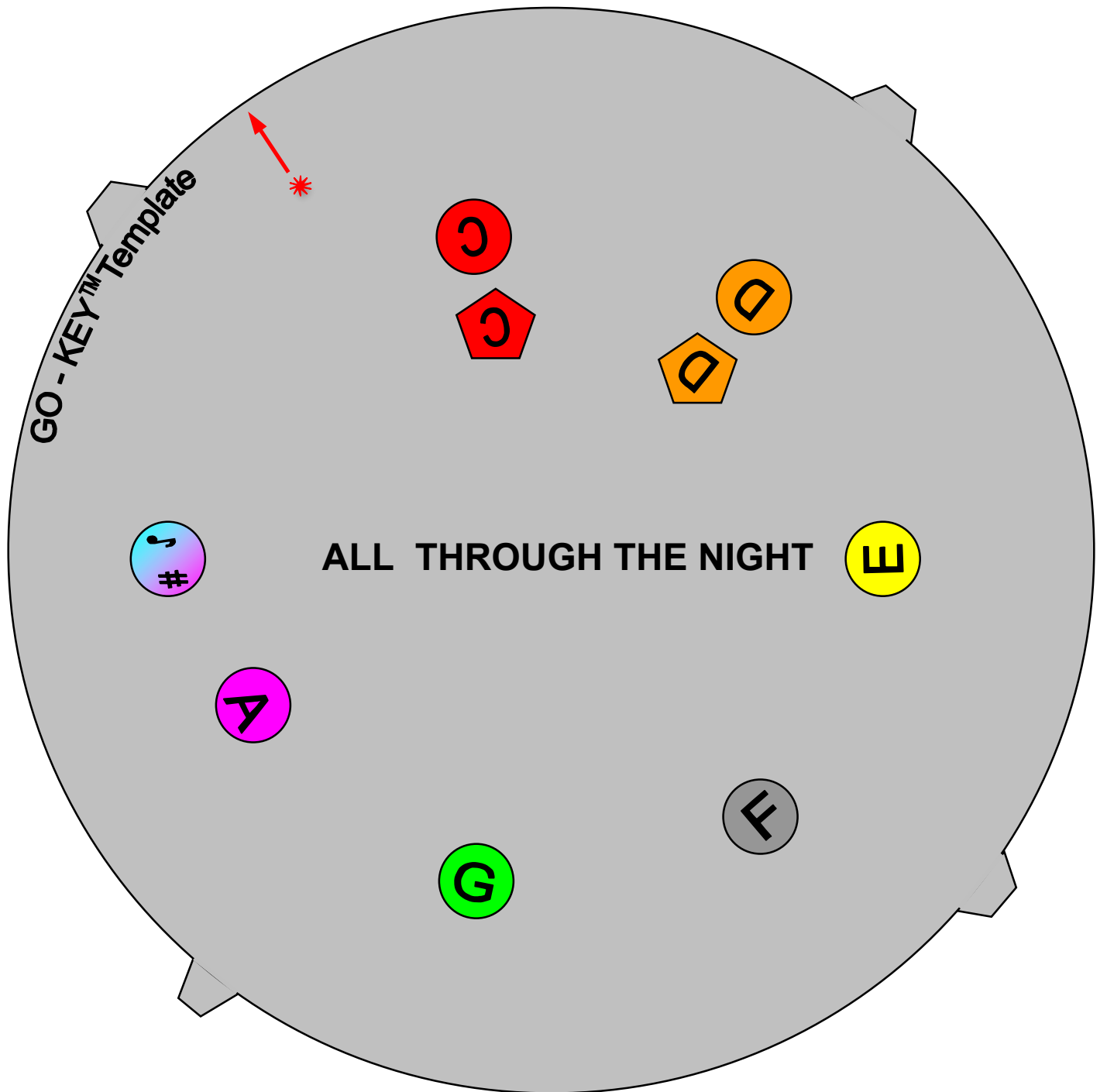
Angels watching ever round thee
 All through the night
 In thy slumbers close surround thee
 All through the night
 They will of all fears disarm thee,
 No forebodings should alarm thee,
 They will let no peril harm thee
 All through the night.

Another alternative version:

Deep the silence 'round us spreading
 all through the night.
 Dark the path that we are treading
 all through the night.
 Still the coming day discerning
 by the hope within us burning.
 To the dawn our footsteps turning
 all through the night.
 Star of faith the dark adorning
 all through the night.
 Leads us fearless t'wards the morning
 all through the night.
 Though our hearts be wrapt in sorrow,
 from the hope of dawn we borrow
 promise of a glad tomorrow
 all through the night.

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History and Origin

"Ar Hyd y Nos" (English: All Through the Night) is a Welsh song sung to a tune that was first recorded in Edward Jones' *Musical and Poetical Relics of the Welsh Bards* (1784). The most commonly sung Welsh lyrics were written by John Ceiriog Hughes (1832-1887), and have been translated into several languages, including English (most famously by Harold Boulton (1859–1935) and Breton. One of the earliest English versions, to different Welsh lyrics by one John Jones, was by Thomas Oliphant in 1862.

The melody is also used in the hymn "Go My Children With My Blessing."

The song is highly popular with traditional Welsh male voice choirs, and is sung by them at festivals in Wales and around the world.

The song is also sometimes considered a Christmas carol, and as such has been performed by many artists on Christmas albums, including Olivia Newton-John and Michael McDonald, who sang it as a duet on Newton-John's 2007 album *Christmas Wish*. Cerys Matthews sang it solo on her 2010 album *Tir*.

The tune is also used in the hymn "For the Fruit of All Creation" by Fred Pratt Green. The first verse of Green's lyrics (used widely in the harvest season and at Thanksgiving) ends with these words: "For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, / Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God."

In music

- Joseph Haydn wrote a collection of Welsh folk songs for George Thomson (1757-1831) one of which is based on Ar hyd y nos (The Live Long Night)
- Ferdinand Ries used the tune and variations upon it in *Ouverture bardique* (WoO 24, 1815).
- British composer Cyril Scott used the tune for the first of his three *British Melodies* for piano (1912).
- The doo-wop group The Mystics, in the line-up that included Paul Simon (then recording at Jerry Landis) had a hit with a sped-up version.
- Peter, Paul and Mary sing a version on their children's album *Peter, Paul and Mommy*.
- The chorus of Max Boyce's song "Hymns and Arias", frequently sung by fans of the Wales rugby union team, mentions "Ar Hyd y Nos": "And we were singing hymns and arias; 'Land of my Fathers', 'Ar hyd y nos'".
- Alan Stivell sings the song in Breton, Welsh and English on his 23rd album *Emerald*.

In film

- The film *Knowing*, starring Nicolas Cage, features his character's wife singing the English version of the song to their child.
- An a cappella version of the song occurs very briefly at the end of the Vulcan/Volcano scene in Terry Gilliam's film, *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, (1988) as Vulcan kisses Venus. It is assumed that the cyclopes/miners are the singers.
- Carter Burwell's soundtrack to the film, *The General's Daughter*, features a version of the tune played on a glockenspiel.
- In the 1945 film version of Emyln Williams' *The Corn Is Green*, the children in the school are taught the English version.
- In the 1949 British Ealing comedy film, *A Run for Your Money*, starring Donald Houston, the song is sung at the Amateur Night performance and also heard as a theme on the train journey home.