

START

**C** **F** **F** **F** **G** **A** **A** **A** **G** **A** **#** **E** **G** **F**  
OH CHRISTMAS TREE OH CHRISTMAS TREE THOU TREE MOST FAIR AND LOVELY

**C** **C** **A** **D** **C** **C** **#** **#** **#** **G** **C** **#** **#** **A** **A**  
THE SIGHT OF THEE AT CHRISTMASTIDE SPREADS HOPE AND GLADNESS FAR AND WIDE

**C** **F** **F** **F** **G** **A** **A** **A** **G** **A** **#** **E** **G** **F** END  
OH CHRISTMAS TREE OH CHRISTMAS TREE THOU TREE MOST FAIR AND LOVELY

## Lyrics

### Anschütz (1824)

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!  
Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit,  
Nein, auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.  
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
Wie treu sind deine Blätter!

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!  
Wie oft hat nicht zur Weihnachtszeit  
Ein Baum von dir mich hoch erfreut!  
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
Du kannst mir sehr gefallen!

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren:  
Die Hoffnung und Beständigkeit  
Gibt Mut und Kraft zu jeder Zeit!  
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
Dein Kleid will mich was lehren!

Or Wie oft hat schon zur  
Winterzeit

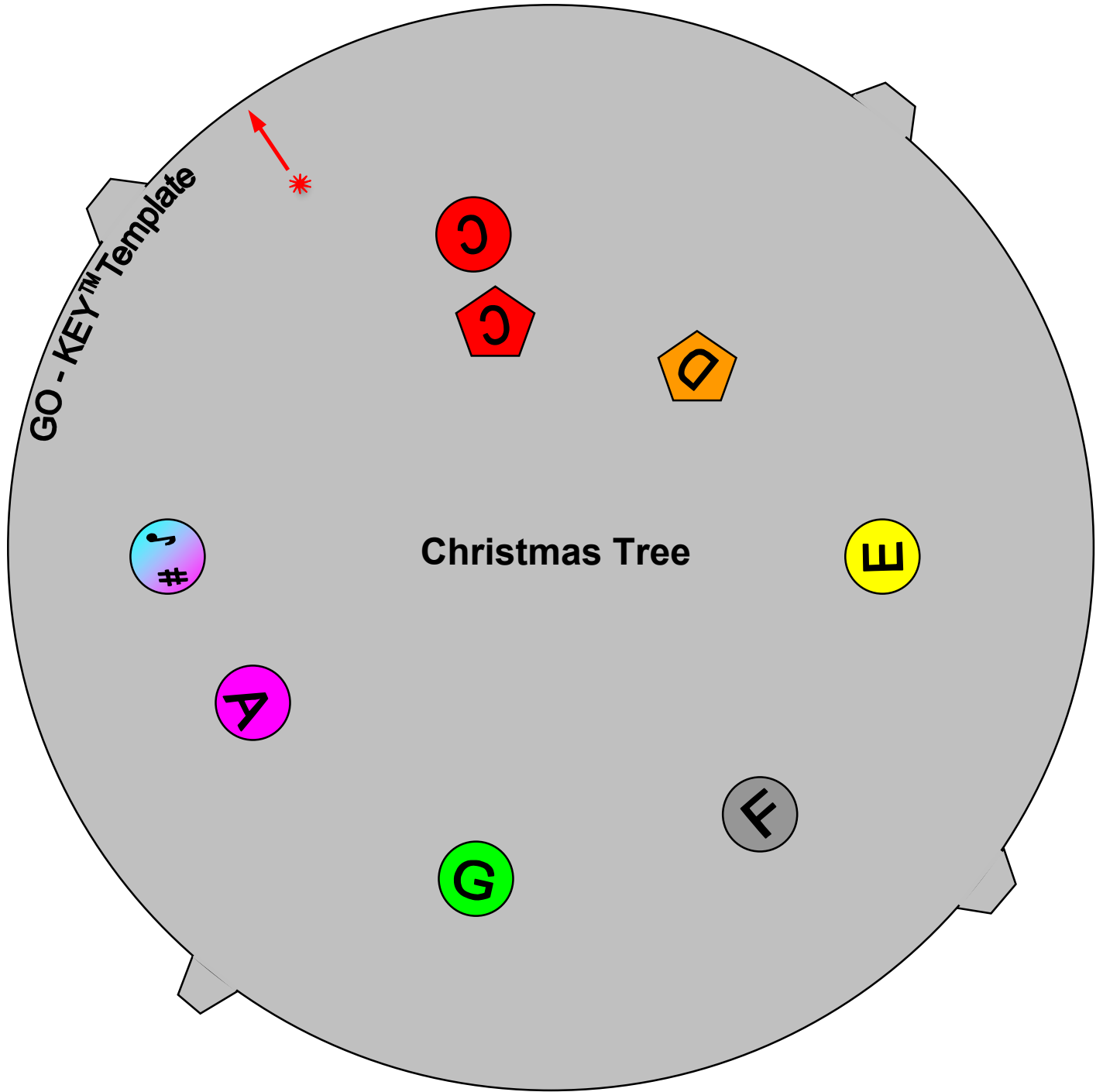
### One English Version

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,  
Your branches green delight us!  
They are green when summer days are bright,  
They are green when winter snow is white.  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,  
Your branches green delight us!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,  
You give us so much pleasure!  
How oft at Christmas tide the sight,  
O green fir tree, gives us delight!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,  
You give us so much pleasure!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree  
Forever true your colour.  
Your boughs so green in summertime  
Stay bravely green in wintertime.  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree  
Forever true your colour.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree  
You fill my heart with music.  
Reminding me on Christmas Day  
To think of you and then be gay.  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree  
You fill my heart with music.



"O Tannenbaum" (German: [o: 'tanənbaum]; "O fir tree", English: "O Christmas Tree") is a German Christmas song. Based on a traditional folk song, it became associated with the traditional Christmas tree by the early 20th century and sung as a Christmas carol.

## History and Origin

The modern lyrics were written in 1824, by the Leipzig organist, teacher and composer Ernst Anschütz. A Tannenbaum is a fir tree. The lyrics do not actually refer to Christmas, or describe a decorated Christmas tree. Instead, they refer to the fir's evergreen quality as a symbol of constancy and faithfulness.

Anschütz based his text on a 16th-century Silesian folk song by Melchior Franck, "Ach Tannenbaum". August Zarnack in 1819 wrote a tragic love song inspired by this folk song, taking the evergreen, "faithful" fir tree as contrasting with a faithless lover. The folk song first became associated with Christmas with Anschütz, who added two verses of his own to the first, traditional verse. The custom of the Christmas tree developed in the course of the 19th century, and the song came to be seen as a Christmas carol. Anschütz's version still had *treu* (true, faithful) as the adjective describing the fir's leaves (needles), harking back to the contrast to the faithless maiden of the folk song. This was changed to *grün* (green) at some point in the 20th century, after the song had come to be associated with Christmas.

Some notable uses include:

- "The Red Flag", anthem of the British and Irish Labour Parties.
- Florida—"Florida, My Florida" – former state song.
- Maryland—"Maryland, My Maryland" – official state song.
- Michigan—"Michigan, My Michigan" – widely believed to be the official state song.
- Iowa—"The Song of Iowa" – official state song.
- The tune was used for the national anthem ("O Parador") in the 1988 film *Moon over Parador*.
- Cornell University's Evening Song is sung to the tune of "O Tannenbaum" and is played nightly.
- The College of the Holy Cross's alma mater is sung to the tune of "O Tannenbaum".
- The school song of Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- "Oh Holy Name", the corps song of The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps uses a variation of the tune.
- The students of Trinity College in the University of Toronto sing their school song to the tune of "O Tannenbaum"
- When traveling by bus, schoolchildren in Sweden sing "Vår busschaufför" ("Our bus driver") to the melody.
- "Albany, O Albany" song for the city of Albany, New York.
- St. Bonaventure University Alma Mater, "With Myrtle Wreath We'll Deck Thy Brow".
- The Scout Vespers, used by the Boy Scouts of America, is sung to the melody.
- "Opening Ode" of the Knights of Columbus.