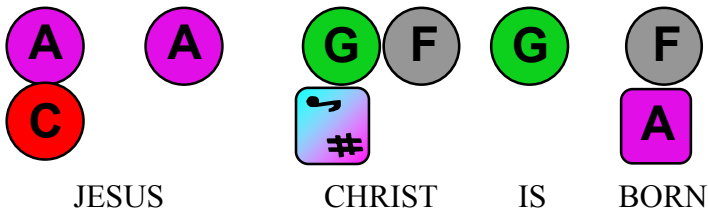
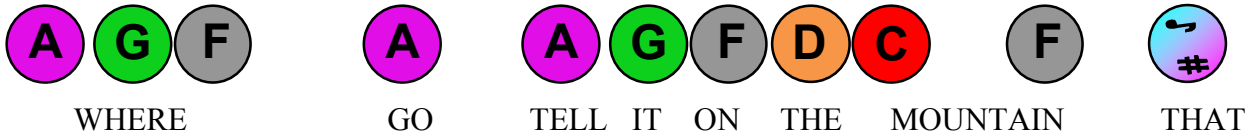
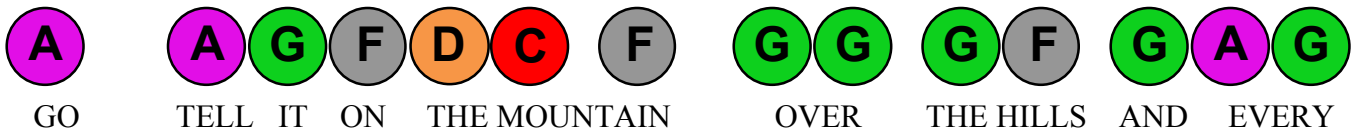


# Go Tell It On The Mountain



## Lyrics

Chorus (shown above)

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light

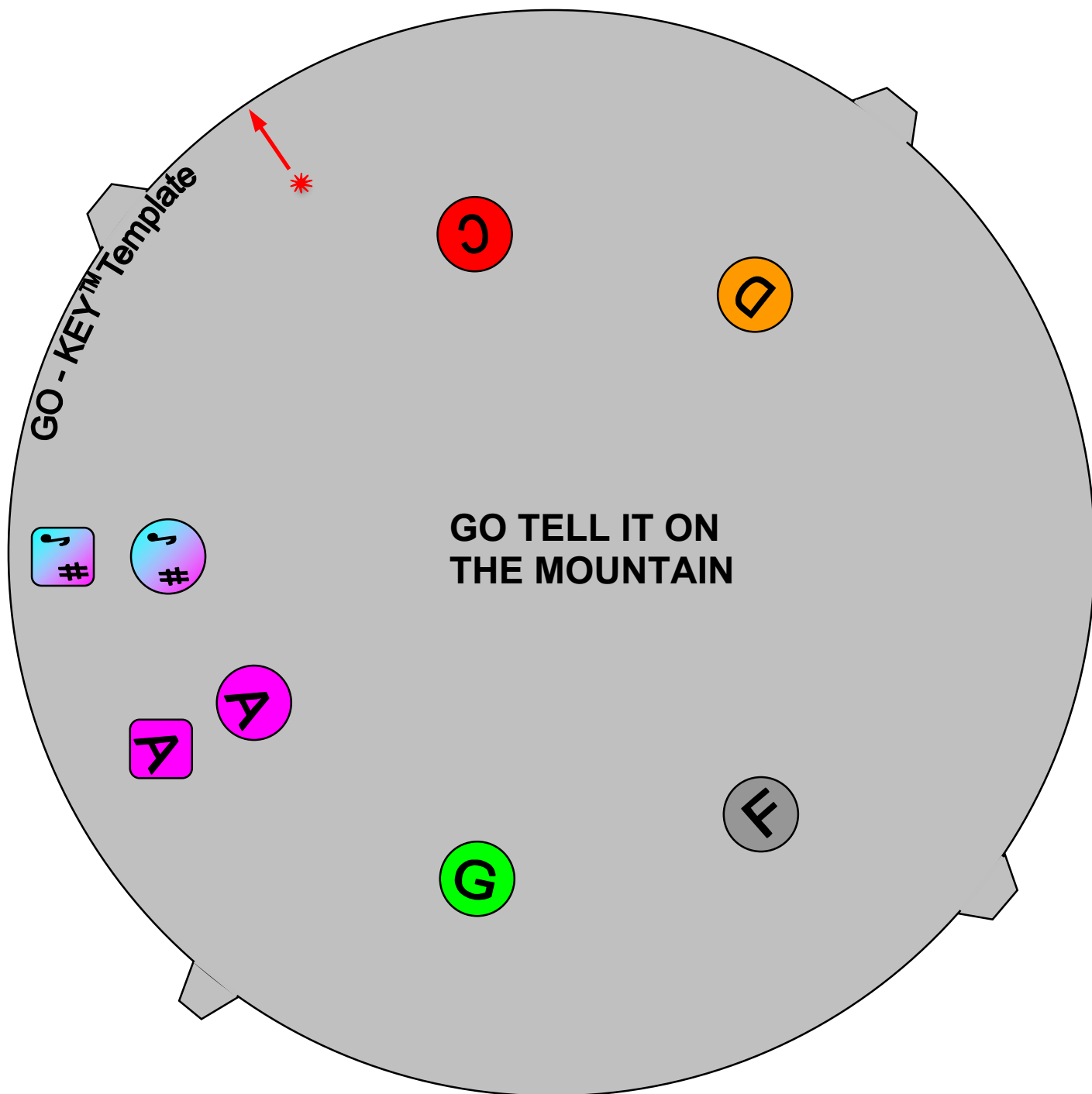
Chorus

Shepherds feared and trembled  
When low above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our saviour's birth

Chorus

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent our salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

Chorus



# History and Origin

**"Go Tell It on the Mountain"** is an African-American spiritual song, compiled by John Wesley Work Jr., dating back to at least 1865, that has been sung and recorded by many gospel and secular performers. It is considered a Christmas carol because its original lyrics celebrate the Nativity of Jesus. According to Religious Studies professor and Civil Rights historian Charles Marsh, it was African American Civil Rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer who combined this song with the spiritual "Go Down Moses," taking the last line of the chorus, "Let my people go" and substituting it in the chorus of "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Marsh does not document this claim, but notes that Hamer was highly active in civil rights work beginning in the 1950s, and that the use of the Exodus story and the singing of spirituals played a central role in her activities.

In 1963, the musical team Peter, Paul and Mary, along with their musical director Milt Okun, adapted and rewrote "Go Tell It on the Mountain" as "Tell It on the Mountain", their lyrics referring specifically to: Exodus and using the phrase "Let my people go," but referring implicitly to the Civil Rights struggle of the early 1960s. This version became a moderately successful single for them (US #33 pop, 1964).

## Recordings include:

1942: Dorothy Maynor  
 1950: Mahalia Jackson on the album Silent Night, Holy Night  
 1960: Bobby Darin on the album The 25th Day of December  
 1961: Brook Benton  
 1964: Jimmie Davis  
 1964: Gordon MacRae on the album Firestone Presents Your Christmas Favorites, Volume 3 [3]  
 1964: Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra on the album 12 Songs of Christmas  
 1964: Simon & Garfunkel on the album Wednesday Morning, 3 AM  
 1965: Ray Conniff Singers on the album Here We Come A-Caroling  
 1965: Esther & Abi Ofarim on the album "That's Our Song", and a version in French "Viens sur la Montagne"[4]  
 1967: Jim Nabors on the album Jim Nabors Christmas  
 1969: Johnny Nash  
 1970: Smokey Robinson & the Miracles  
 1971: Bob Marley and the Wailers featuring Peter Tosh on the album The Best of The Wailers  
 1981: Anne Murray on the album Christmas Wishes  
 1990: Dolly Parton on the album Home for Christmas  
 1991: Don McLean  
 1992: Garth Brooks  
 1993: Bruce Cockburn on the album Christmas  
 1996: Vanessa Williams on the album Star Bright  
 1998: Cece Winans on the album His Gift  
 1999: Garth Brooks on the album Garth Brooks and the Magic of Christmas  
 1999: Jewel on the album Joy: A Holiday Collection  
 2001: Candi Staton on the album Christmas in My Heart  
 2001: Fred Hammond on the album Christmas...Just Remember  
 2001: Sara Evans on the album Country Christmas 2001  
 2002: Crystal Lewis on the album Holiday! A Collection of Christmas Classics  
 2003: Oh Susanna on the album Maybe This Christmas Too? on the album (various artists)  
 2003: The Blind Boys of Alabama on the album Go Tell It on the Mountain  
 2004: Ann-Margret  
 2004: James Taylor on the album A Christmas Album  
 2006: Little Big Town's non-album single version reached No. 35 on the Hot Country Songs chart.  
 2007: Randy Travis  
 2007: Toby Keith on the album A Classic Christmas  
 2008: Needtobreathe on the album An Alternative Christmas (various artists)  
 2008: Sheryl Crow on the album Home for Christmas  
 2009: Big Daddy Weave on the album Christ Is Come  
 2011: Ricky Skaggs  
 2012: Pentatonix on the album PTXmas  
 2013: David Crowder Band on the album Wow Christmas: 30 Top Christian Artists and Holiday Songs  
 2015: Hunter Hayes on the album Country Faith Christmas (various artists)  
 2016: Neil Diamond  
 2016: Jennifer Nettles on the album To Celebrate Christmas  
 2016: Sarah McLachlan on the album Wonderland  
 2016: Blues Traveler as a single "Go Tell It On The Mountain"  
 2017: Alabama  
 2017: Hanson (band) on the album Finally It's Christmas