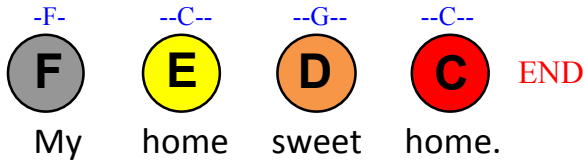
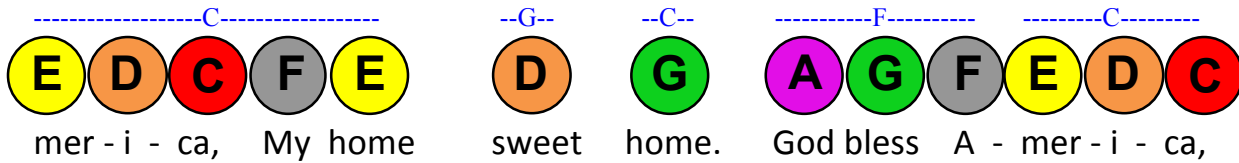
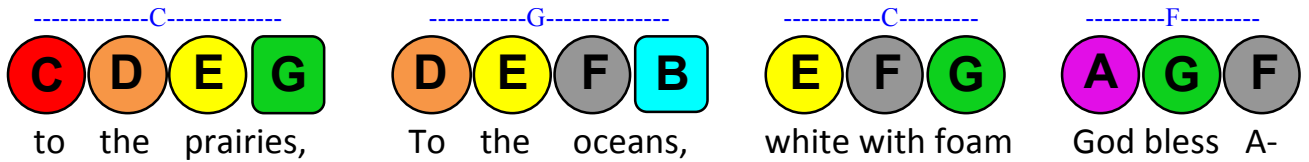
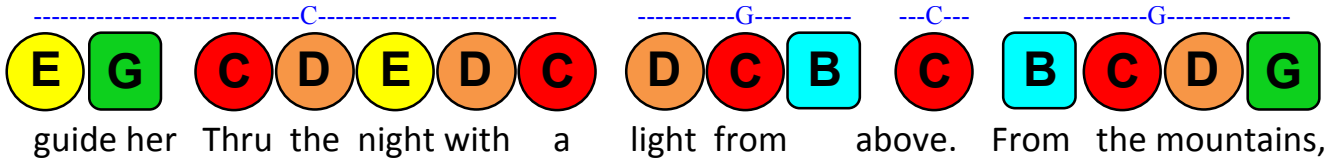
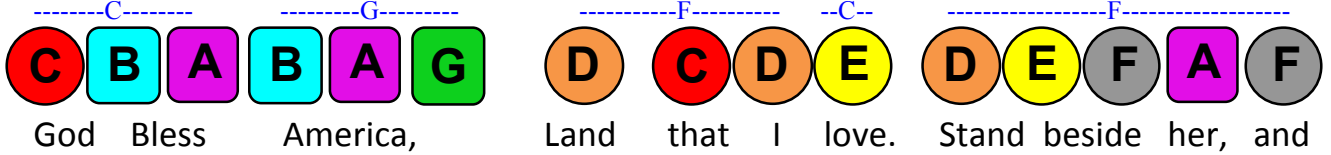


God Bless America

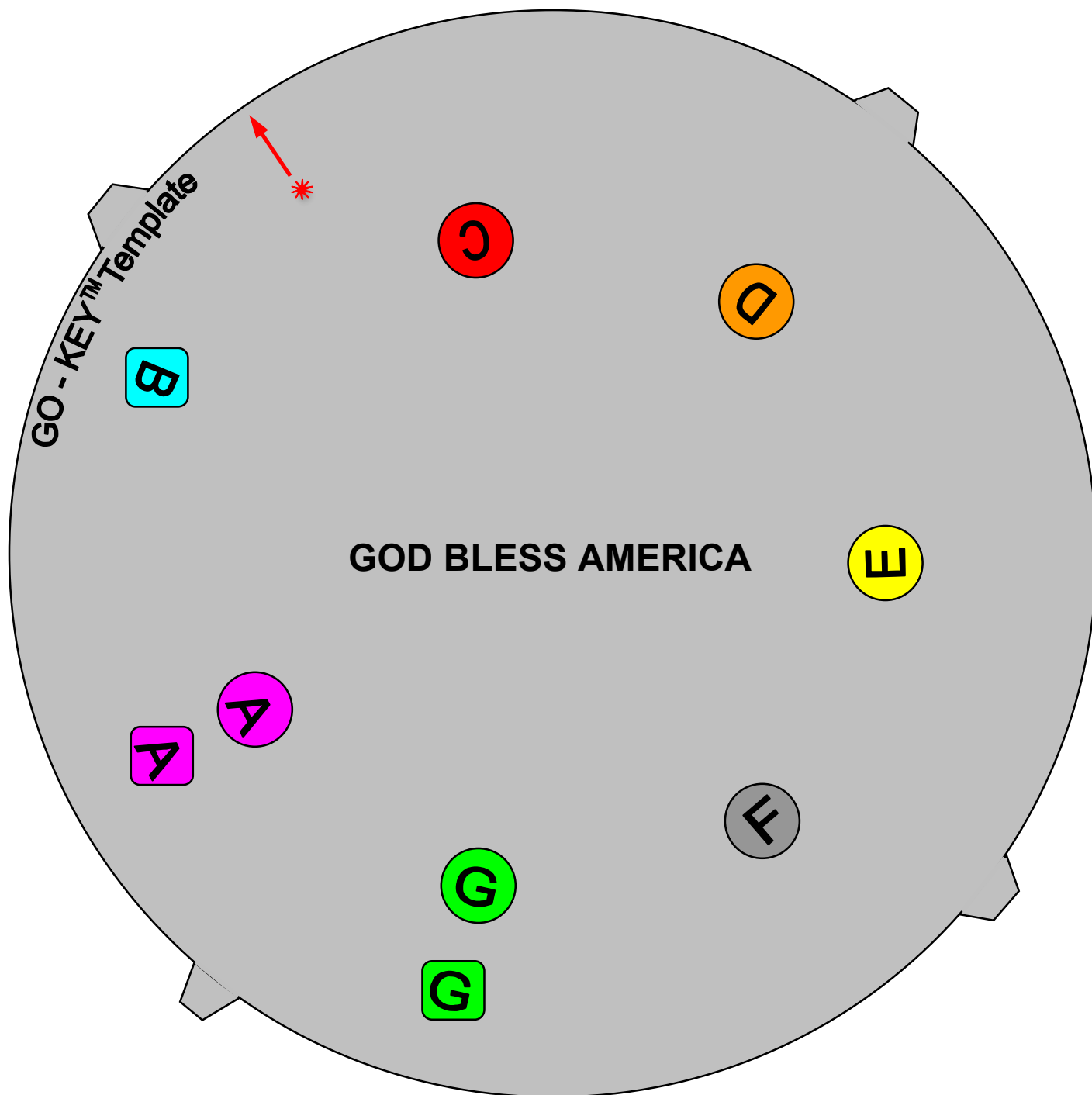
START



Lyrics

God Bless America,
 Land that I love.
 Stand beside her, and guide her
 Thru the night with a light from above.
 From the mountains, to the prairies,
 To the oceans, white with foam
 God bless America, My home sweet home.
 God bless America, My home sweet home.

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History and Origin

"God Bless America" is an American patriotic song written by Irving Berlin during World War I in 1918 and revised by him in the run up to World War II in 1938.

Kate Smith, made "God Bless America" her signature song.

In 1938, with the rise of Adolf Hitler, Irving Berlin, who was Jewish and had arrived in America from Russia at the age of five, felt it was time to revive it as a "peace song," and it was introduced on an Armistice Day broadcast in 1938, sung by Kate Smith on her radio show. Berlin added an introduction that is now rarely heard but which Smith always used: "While the storm clouds gather far across the sea / Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free / Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, / As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer." In 1943, Smith's rendition was featured in the patriotic musical *This is the Army* along with other Berlin songs. The manuscripts in the Library of Congress reveal the evolution of the song from victory to peace. Later, from December 11, 1969, through the early 1970s, the playing of Smith singing the song before many home games of the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers brought it renewed popularity as well as a reputation for being a "good luck charm" to the Flyers long before it became a staple of nationwide sporting events. The Flyers even brought Smith in to perform live before Game 6 of the 1974 Stanley Cup Finals on May 19, 1974, and the Flyers won the Cup that day.

Space Shuttle Atlantis final wakeup call on July 21, 2011, Smith's version of the song was played as NASA capped the 30-year Space Shuttle program.

National Hockey League

"God Bless America" has been performed at home games of the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers and those of the Ottawa Senators in which the visiting team is from the United States.

Major League Baseball

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, "God Bless America" is sometimes sung during the seventh-inning stretch in Major League Baseball games.

American football

At the January 1, 1976, Rose Bowl, to honor the start of the United States Bicentennial, Kate Smith and the UCLA Band performed "God Bless America" for a national television audience. During the Super Bowl LI halftime show a pre-recorded introduction by Lady Gaga, who headlined the show, featured both "God Bless America" and "This Land is Your Land".

Indianapolis 500

The Indianapolis 500 is traditionally held at the end of May, and "God Bless America" has been sung there since 2003.

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, Canadian pop star Celine Dion performed the song on the TV special *America: A Tribute to Heroes*.

Bing Crosby recorded the song on March 22, 1939 for Decca Records.

In 1997, American country music recording artist LeAnn Rimes recorded a cover of the song on her second studio album, *You Light Up My Life: Inspirational Songs*