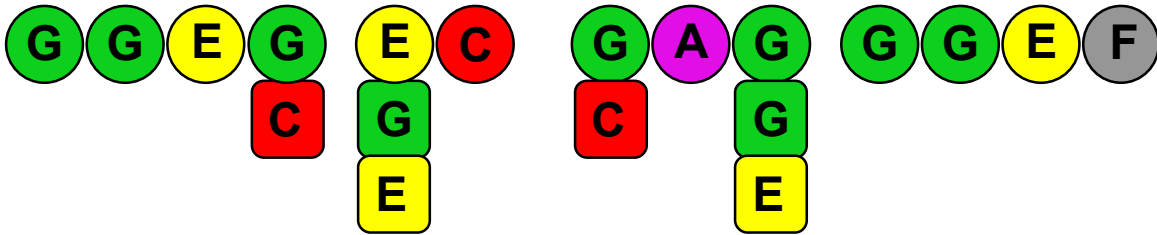
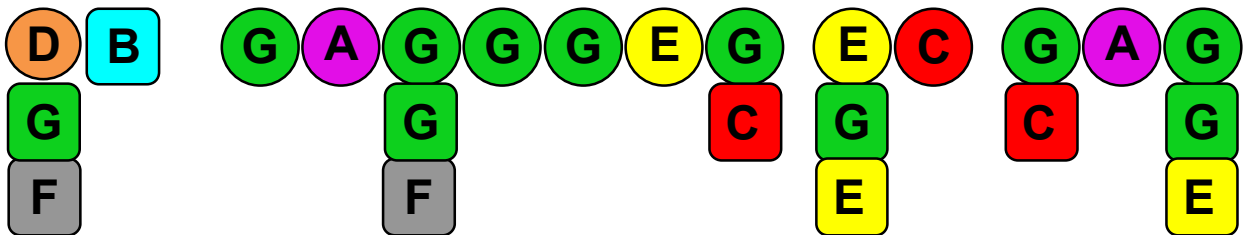


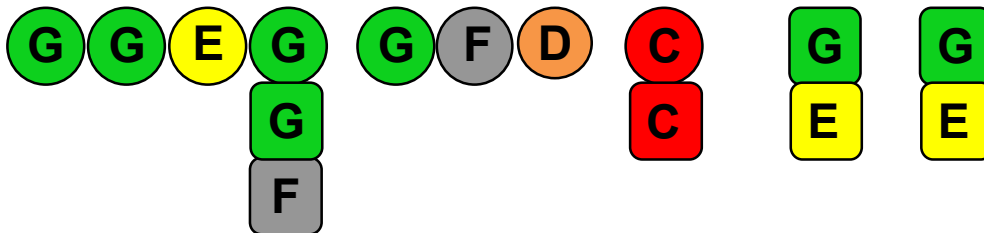
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands



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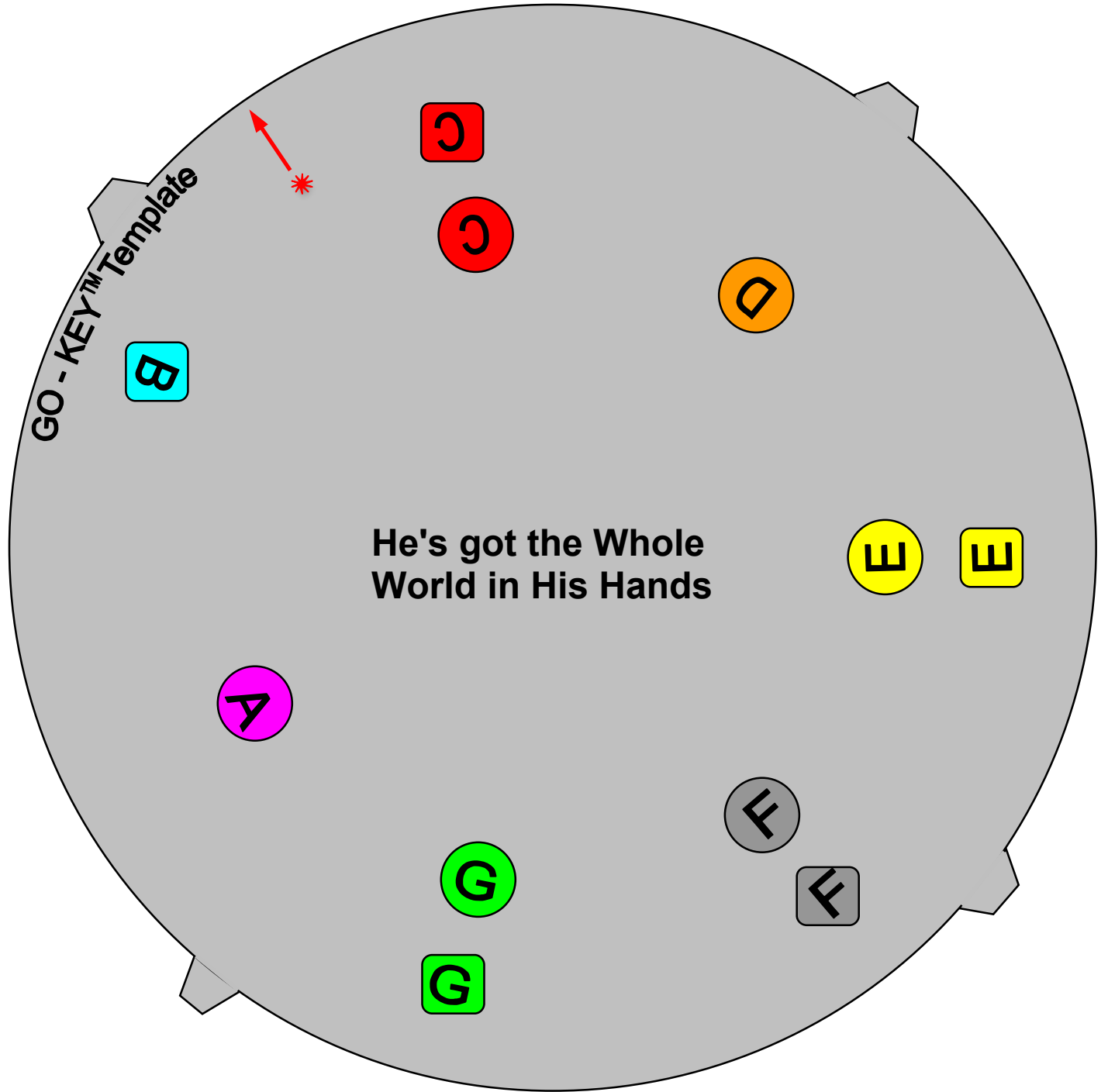
More Lyrics:

He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
 He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
 He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands,
 He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the sun and the rain in His hands,
 He's got the moon and the stars in His hands,
 He's got the wind and the clouds in His hands,
 He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the rivers and the mountains in His hands,
 He's got the oceans and the seas in His hands,
 He's got you and he's got me in His hands,
 He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got everybody here in His hands,
 He's got everybody there in His hands,
 He's got everybody everywhere in His hands,
 He's got the whole world in His hands.



History and Origin

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" is a traditional American spiritual, first published in 1927. It became an international pop hit in 1957-58 in a recording by English singer Laurie London, and has been recorded by many other singers and choirs. By many sources, including his published obituary, this song is said to have been written by Master Sergeant Obie Edwin Philpot, although he never held a copyright or earned a royalty.

The song was first published in the paperbound hymnal *Spirituals Triumphant, Old and New* in 1927. In 1933, it was collected by Frank Warner from the singing of Sue Thomas in North Carolina. It was also recorded by other collectors such as Robert Sonkin of the Library of Congress, who recorded it in Gee's Bend, Alabama in 1941. That version is still available at the Library's American Folklife Center. Frank Warner performed the song during the 1940s and 1950s, and introduced it to the American folk scene. Warner recorded it on the Elektra album *American Folk Songs and Ballads* in 1952. It was quickly picked up by both American gospel singers and British skiffle and pop musicians.

The song made the popular song charts in a 1957 recording by English singer Laurie London with the Geoff Love Orchestra, which reached #12 on the UK singles chart in late 1957. Laurie London's version then rose to #1 of the Most Played by Jockeys song list in the USA and went to number three on the R&B charts in 1958.

In 1995, The Sisters of Glory, a gospel group that featured Thelma Houston, CeCe Peniston, Phoebe Snow, Lois Walden, and Albertina Walker, included the composition to their album *Good News in Hard Times* released on Warner Bros.

In 1997, Half Man Half Biscuit appropriated the melody of the song for their song "Paintball's Coming Home" on the album *Voyage to the Bottom of the Road*

In February 1978, English football team Nottingham Forest F.C. released "We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands" (Warner K17110) in conjunction with local band Paper Lace.

In the 1982 film *Tootsie*, Dorothy Michaels (Dustin Hoffman) sings a line of the song to her (his) agent George Fields (Sydney Pollack), changing the words to "I've got the whole world in my hands."

The song was also used in the 1987 film *Roxanne* with Steve Martin.

In the 1993 film *Dave*, Dave Kovic visits a factory and sings the chorus of the song while telemetrically manipulating a pair of gigantic robotic arms.

In the movie *Con Air* (1997), Steve Buscemi plays a serial killer who sings "He's Got the Whole World" with a little girl.

In the movie *RocketMan*, also from 1997, Harland Williams plays the role of an astronaut who sings "I Have the Whole World in My Hands" on a worldwide broadcast, and is then accompanied by millions of people around the world watching it.

WWE wrestler Bray Wyatt started singing the song during his feud with John Cena, to accentuate Wyatt's gimmick as a cult leader.

In *Lego Batman 3: Beyond Gotham*, Joker singing "I've got the whole world in my pants" is based on the music.