

The House of the Rising Sun

START

Am C D F Am C E-E⁷

A A B C E D A C A A A G E D E

There is a house in New Orleans, they call the Ri - sing Sun.
Oh God how great and won - der - ful, this world You have made for me!

Am C D F Am

A A A G G E D D D A C A A

It's been the ru - in of many a poor girl
Now help me use these gifts that You have given
and me to bring

Am E⁷ Am E⁷ END

A A# E A# A

oh Lord, was one.
more souls to Thee.*

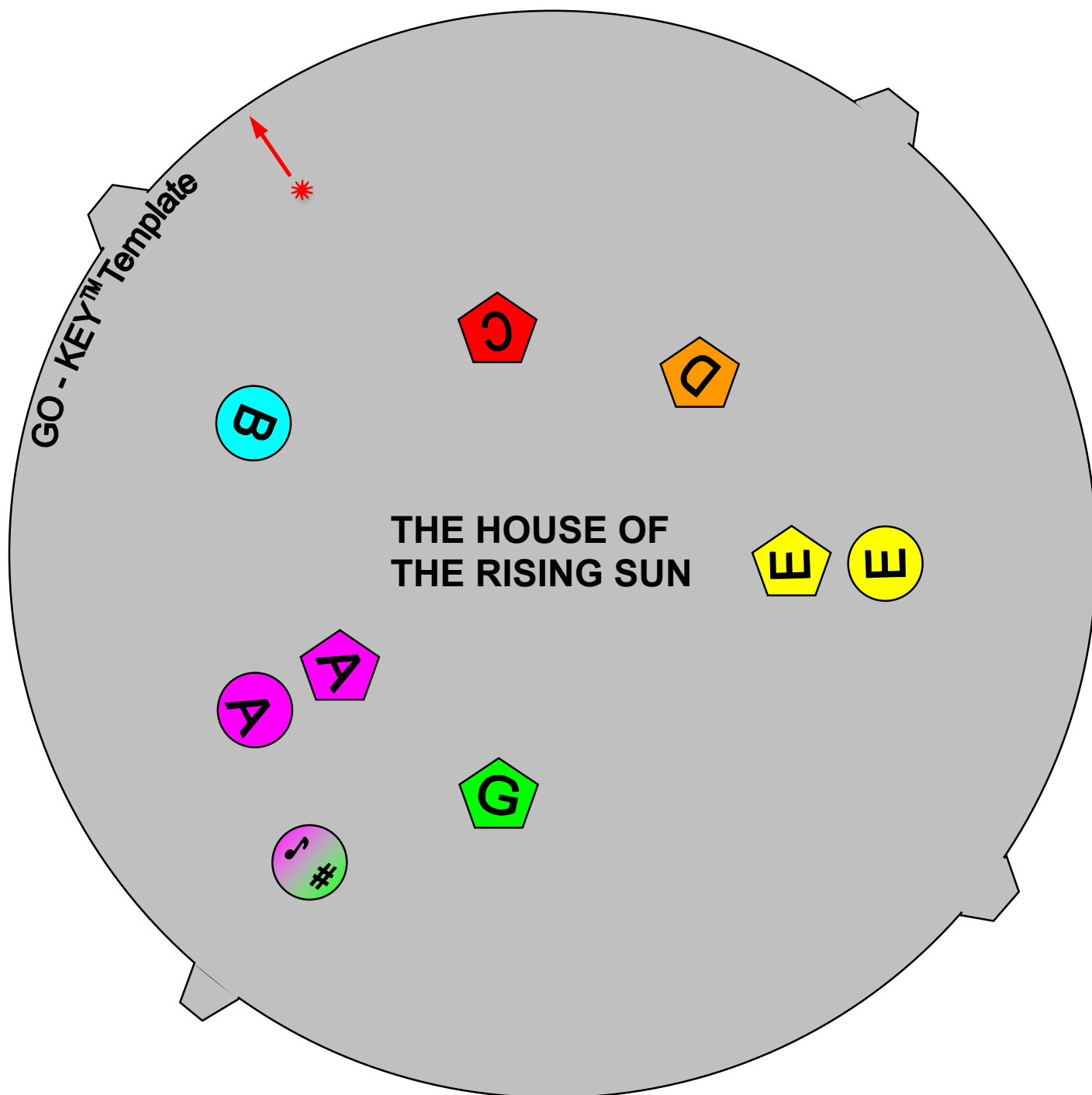
Chords below blend best if played on separate circular keyboard with octave switch set to low.

Am	C	D	F	Am	C	E	E ⁷
A	C	D	F	A	C	E	E
C	E	A#	A	C	E	A#	A#
E	G	A	C	E	G	B	B
							D

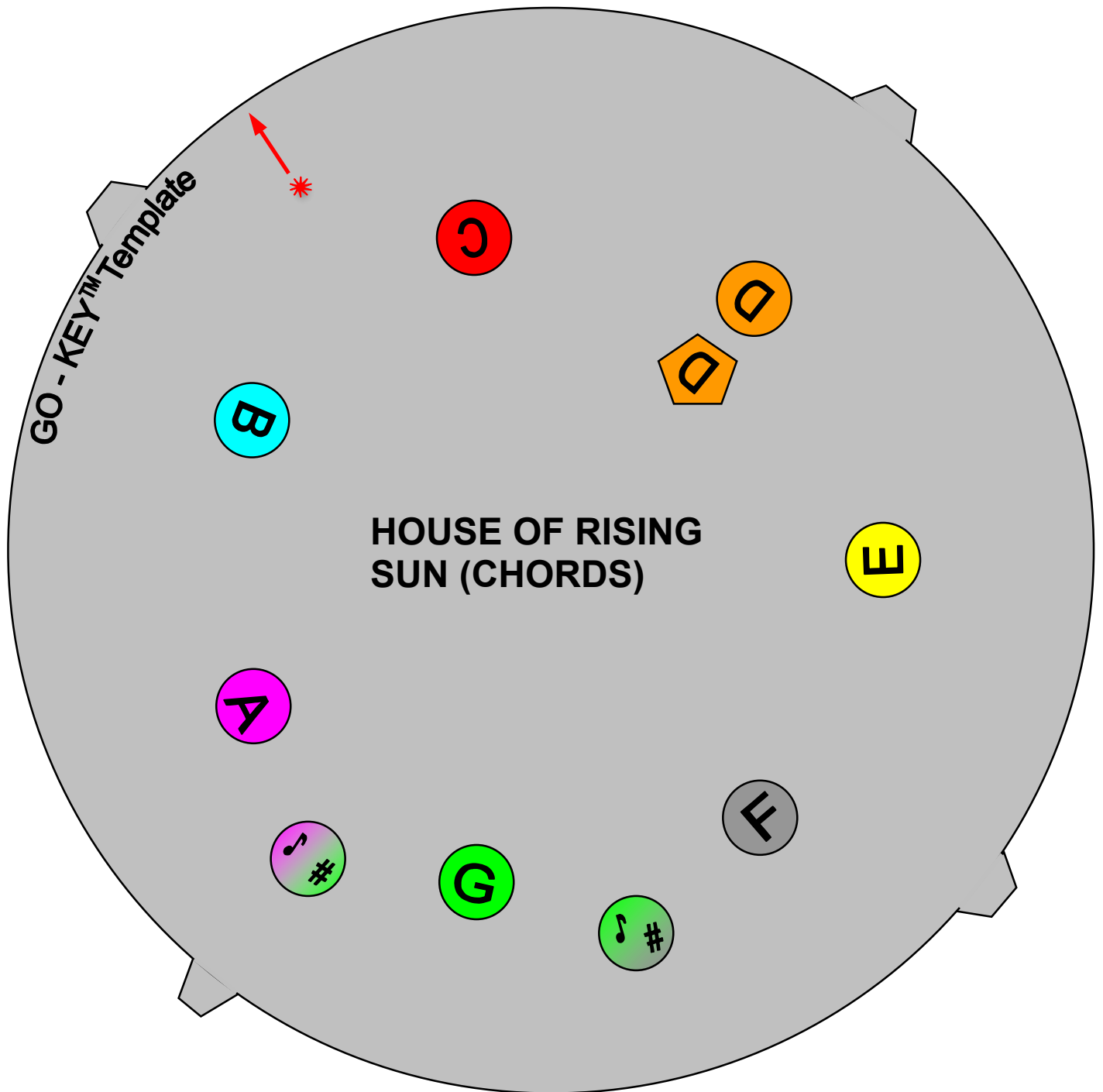
Am	C	D	F	Am	E ⁷	Am	E ⁷
A	C	D	F	A	E	A	E
C	E	A#	A	C	A#	C	A#
E	G	A	C	E	B	E	B
				D			D

* These words, from God, were placed here by Art Seymour on July 19, 2019. They are public domain and free to use without restrictions.

Template for Melody



Template for chords



History and Origin

"**The House of the Rising Sun**" is a traditional folk song, sometimes called "Rising Sun Blues". It tells of a life gone wrong in New Orleans. The most successful commercial version, recorded in 1964 by British rock group The Animals, was a number one hit on the UK Singles Chart and also in the United States and France. As a traditional folk song recorded by an electric rock band, it has been described as the "first folk rock hit". Like many classic folk ballads, "The House of the Rising Sun" is of uncertain authorship. Musicologists say that it is based on the tradition of broadside ballads, and thematically it has some resemblance to the 16th-century ballad *The Unfortunate Rake*. According to Alan Lomax, "Rising Sun" was used as the name of a bawdy house in two traditional English songs, and it was also a name for English pubs. Lomax proposed that the location of the house was then relocated from England to New Orleans by white Southern performers. However, Vance Randolph proposed an alternative French origin, the "rising sun" referring to the decorative use of the sunburst insignia dating to the time of Louis XIV, which was brought to North America by French immigrants. "House of Rising Sun" was said to have been known by miners in 1905. The oldest published version of the lyrics is that printed by Robert Winslow Gordon in 1925, in a column "Old Songs That Men Have Sung" in *Adventure* magazine. Lyrics of that version begin:

*There is a house in New Orleans, it's called the Rising Sun
It's been the ruin of many a poor girl
Great God, and I for one*

Notable Uses:

- 1933, Recording under the title "Rising Sun Blues", by Clarence "Tom" Ashley and Gwen Foster.
- 1941, Woody Guthrie recorded a version.
- 1947, A recording made by Libby Holman and Josh White and released by Mercury Records in 1950.
- 1957, Glenn Yarbrough recorded the song for Elektra Records.
- 1958, Pete Seeger released a version on Folkways Records.
- 1959, Andy Griffith recorded the song on his album *Andy Griffith Shouts the Blues and Old Timey Songs*.
- 1960, Miriam Makeba recorded the song on her eponymous RCA album.
- 1960, Joan Baez recorded it on her self-titled debut album.
- 1961, Bob Dylan recorded the song for his debut album, released in March 1962.
- 1962, Nina Simone recorded her first version for the album *Nina at the Village Gate*.
- 1964, Tim Hardin sang it on *This is Tim Hardin* recorded in 1964 but not released until 1967.
- 1964, The song was recorded in just one take by Hilton Valentine.
- 1964, A version was included on debut album *The Animals*.
- 1964, The song was covered in French by Johnny Hallyday, his version (titled "Le Pénitencier").
- 1965, Release of the full-length version was on a album entitled *Mickie Most Presents British Go-Go*.
- 1965, Americans could also hear the complete version in the movie *Go Go Mania*.
- 1966, A full version was included on their best-selling greatest hits album, *The Best of the Animals*.
- 1969, the Detroit band *Frijid Pink* recorded a psychedelic version of "House of the Rising Sun".
- 1970, The Chambers Brothers recorded a version on *Feelin' the Blues*, released on Vault Records.
- 1970, *Frijid Pink's* "House of the Rising Sun" debuted at number 29 on the WKNR hit parade.
- 1972, The song was recorded as an instrumental on the *Deep Purple* album recorded by Thin Lizzy.
- 1973, Jody Miller's version reached #29 on the country charts and #41 on the Adult Contemporary chart.
- 1974, Recorded by Brian Johnson's band *Geordie* in album *Don't Be Fooled by the Name*.
- 1981, Dolly Parton released a cover of the song as the third single from her album *9 to 5 and Odd Jobs*..
- 1999, The Animals' rendition of the song received a Grammy Hall of Fame Award.
- 2005, Channel Five poll ranked it as Britain's fourth-favorite number one song.
- 2005, Lead Belly recorded the song on the album *Leadbelly Vol. 3 (1939–1947)*.
- 2017, British indie rock band *Alt-J* covered the song in their album *Relaxer*.