

START

FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD  
 FELLOW FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW WHICH NO-BODY  
 CAN DENY WHICH NO-BODY CAN DENY WHICH NO-BODY  
 CAN DENY FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW WHICH NO-BODY  
 CAN DENY

END

### Lyrics

As with many songs that use gender-specific pronouns, the song can be altered to agree with the sex of the intended recipient, "he" being replaced with "she". If the song is being sung to two or more people (e.g. twins or triplets) it is altered to use plurals (i.e. "For They are Jolly Good Fellows.")

#### British version

For he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow  
 For he's a jolly good fellow (pause), and so say all of us  
 And so say all of us, and so say all of us  
 For he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow  
 For he's a jolly good fellow (pause), and so say all of us!

#### American version

Under notes above.

#### Danish version

For han/hun er en af vor egne, for han/hun er en af vor egne  
 For han/hun er en af vor egne (pause), en rigtig guttermand  
 En rigtig guttermand, en rigtig guttermand  
 For han/hun er en af vor egne, for han/hun er en af vor egne  
 For han/hun er en af vor egne (pause), en rigtig guttermand!

#### French version

Car c'est un bon camarade, Car c'est un bon camarade  
 Car c'est un bon camarade (pause), Buvons à sa santé  
 Buvons à sa santé, Buvons à sa santé  
 Car c'est un bon camarade, Car c'est un bon camarade  
 Car c'est un bon camarade (pause), Buvons à sa santé !

#### Italian version

Perché è un bravo ragazzo, perché è un bravo ragazzo  
 perché è un bravo ragazzo (pause), nessuno lo può negar  
 Nessuno lo può negar, nessuno lo può negar  
 Perché è un bravo ragazzo, perché è un bravo ragazzo  
 perché è un bravo ragazzo (pause), nessuno lo può negar!

#### Polish version

Bo fajny z niego jest kumpel, bo fajny z niego jest kumpel  
 Bo fajny z niego jest kumpel (pauza) i nie zaprzeczy nikt  
 I nie zaprzeczy nikt i nie zaprzeczy nikt  
 Bo fajny z niego jest kumpel, bo fajny z niego jest kumpel  
 Bo fajny z niego jest kumpel (pauza) i nie zaprzeczy nikt

#### Portuguese (Brazil) version

Ele é um bom companheiro, ele é um bom companheiro  
 Ele é um bom companheiro (pause), ninguém pode negar  
 ninguém pode negar, ninguém pode negar  
 Ele é um bom companheiro, ele é um bom companheiro  
 Ele é um bom companheiro (pause), ninguém pode negar!

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#### Spanish (Spain) version

Porque es un chico excelente, porque es un chico excelente  
 Porque es un chico excelente..., y siempre lo será.  
 Y siempre lo será, y siempre lo será.  
 Porque es un chico excelente, porque es un chico excelente  
 Porque es un chico excelente..., y siempre lo será.  
 Y siempre lo será, y siempre lo será...

#### Swedish version

För han är en jättebra kompis, för han är en jättebra kompis  
 För han är en jättebra kompis..., fy fan vad han är bra!  
 Fy fan vad han är bra, fy fan vad han är bra  
 För han är en jättebra kompis, för han är en jättebra kompis  
 För han är en jättebra kompis (paus), fy fan vad han är bra!

#### Croatian version

Jer on je najbolji kompa, jer on je najbolji kompa,  
 jer on je najbolji kompa, (pauza) i nitko to nemre poreć!  
 I nitko to nemre poreć' i nitko to nemre poreć'.  
 Jer on je najbolji kompa, jer on je najbolji kompa,  
 jer on je najbolji kompa, (pauza) i nitko to nemre poreć'!

#### Catalan version

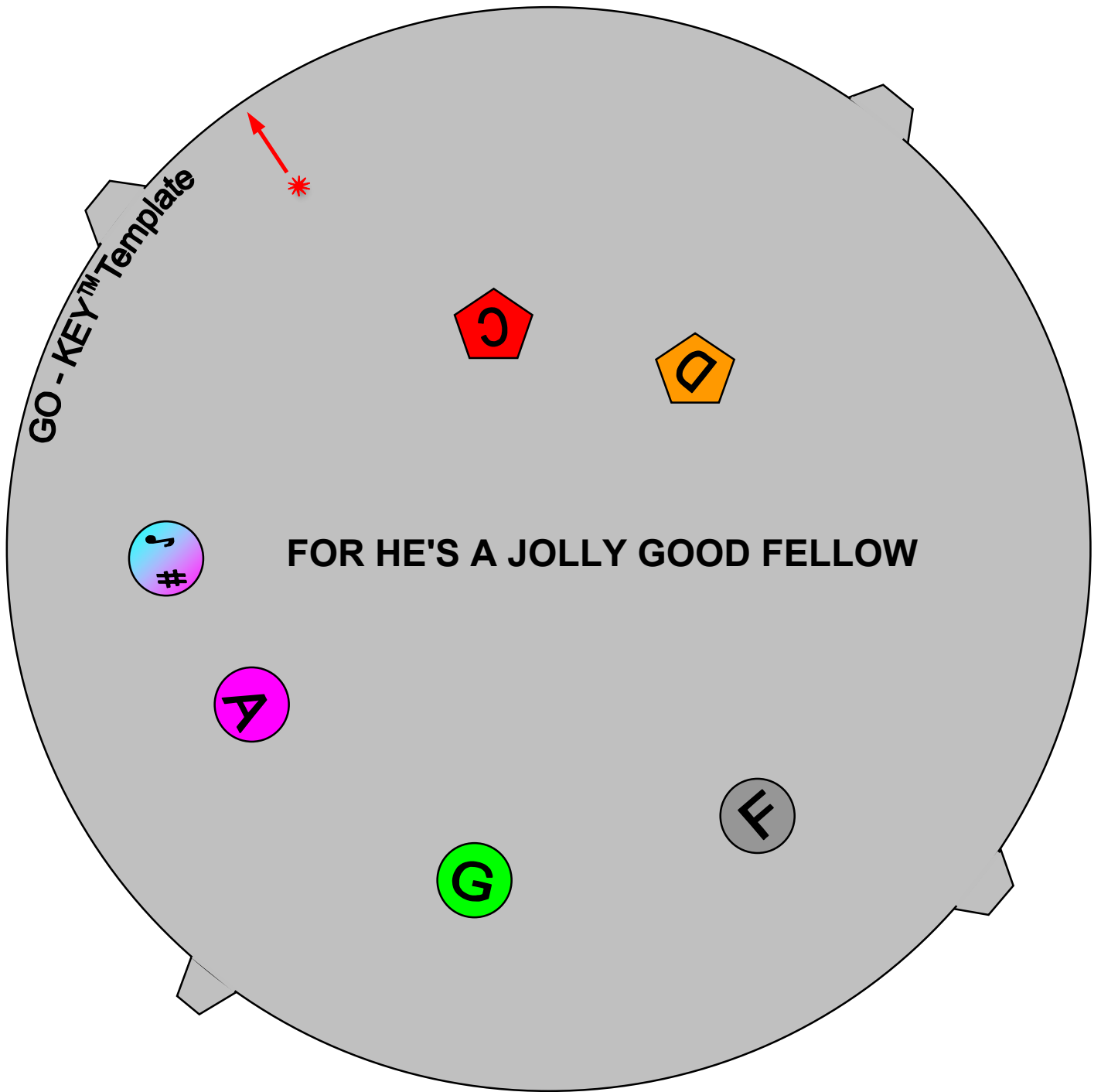
És un xicot excel·lent, és un xicot excel·lent.  
 És un xicot excel·lent..., això no es pot negar.  
 Això no es pot negar, això no es pot negar.  
 És un xicot excel·lent, és un xicot excel·lent.  
 És un xicot excel·lent..., això no es pot negar.  
 Això no es pot negar, això no es pot negar...

#### Hebrew version

Ki hu bahur ka'erez, ki hu bahur ka'erez  
 Ki hu bahur ke'e-e-e-rez  
 Kulanu pe ehad YEEEEH!

#### Russian version

Какой хороший парень, какой хороший парень,  
 Какой хороший парень...  
 Приятно, что он среди нас,  
 Приятно, что он среди нас, приятно, что он среди нас.  
 Какой хороший парень, какой хороший парень, какой хороший  
 парень...  
 Приятно, что он среди нас



## History and Origin

**"For He's a Jolly Good Fellow"** is a popular song that is sung to congratulate a person on a significant event, such as a promotion, a birthday, a wedding (or playing a major part in a wedding), a wedding anniversary, the birth of a child, or the winning of a championship sporting event. The melody originates from the French song "Marlbrough s'en va-t-en guerre" ("Marlborough Has Left for the War").

The tune is of French origin and dates at least from the 18th century. Allegedly it was composed the night after the Battle of Malplaquet in 1709. It became a French folk tune and was popularized by Marie Antoinette after she heard one of her maids singing it. The melody became so popular in France that it was used to represent the French defeat in Beethoven's composition "Wellington's Victory" Opus 91 written in 1813.

The melody also became widely popular in the United Kingdom. By the mid-19th century it was being sung with the words "For he's a jolly good fellow", often at all-male social gatherings. By 1862, it was already familiar in America.

The British and American versions of the lyrics differ. "And so say all of us" is typically British, while "which nobody can deny" is regarded as the American version, but "which nobody can deny" has been used by non-American writers, including Charles Dickens in *Household Words*, Hugh Stowell Brown in *Lectures to the Men of Liverpool* and James Joyce in *Finnegans Wake*. In addition, the 1935 American film *Ruggles of Red Gap*, set in rural Washington state, ends with repeated choruses of the song, with the two variations sung alternately. This may have been chosen by the writer or director because while the crowd singing it is almost completely American, the person they are singing it about is British.

In the United States, the "And so say all of us" version is often found East of the Mississippi, while the "which nobody can deny" variation is far more common West of the Mississippi. In both regions, prior to the popularization of the "Happy Birthday to You" song, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" was the most commonly sung birthday song.

- The British and American versions can be combined, normally with "and so say all of us" in the middle of the verse, and "which nobody can deny" at the end.
- In Australia, many people have traditionally replaced "He's a jolly good fellow" with "She's a jolly good lassie" when singing to a female.
- In Spain, it is sometimes sung at birthdays instead of "Happy Birthday to You". This is also the case in America on television and in movies, because Warner/Chappell Music claimed copyright to "Happy Birthday To You" until 2016, while "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" has long been in the public domain.
- "Nobody" is sometimes replaced by "no one".
- Bing Crosby included the song in a medley on his album *101 Gang Songs* (1961)
- In the *Porridge* episode "Disturbing the Peace", all the prisoners greet Mr. Mackay to this song, having successfully eliminated Mr. Wainwright.
- The song is used to dramatic effect — accompanying a suicide — in Eugene O'Neill's 1914 one-act play "Abortion."