

Lavender's Blue

START

C **G** **G** **G** **F** **E** **D** **C** **A** **C** **A** **G**
Lavender's blue, dilly dilly, lavender's green,

C **G** **G** **G** **F** **E** **D** **C** **F** **E** **D** **C**
When I am king, dilly dilly, you shall be queen.

C **G** **G** **G** **F** **E** **D** **C** **A** **C** **A** **G**
Who told you so, dilly dilly, who told you so?

C **G** **G** **G** **F** **E** **D** **C** **F** **E** **D** **C** **END**
'Twas mine own heart, dilly dilly, that told me so.

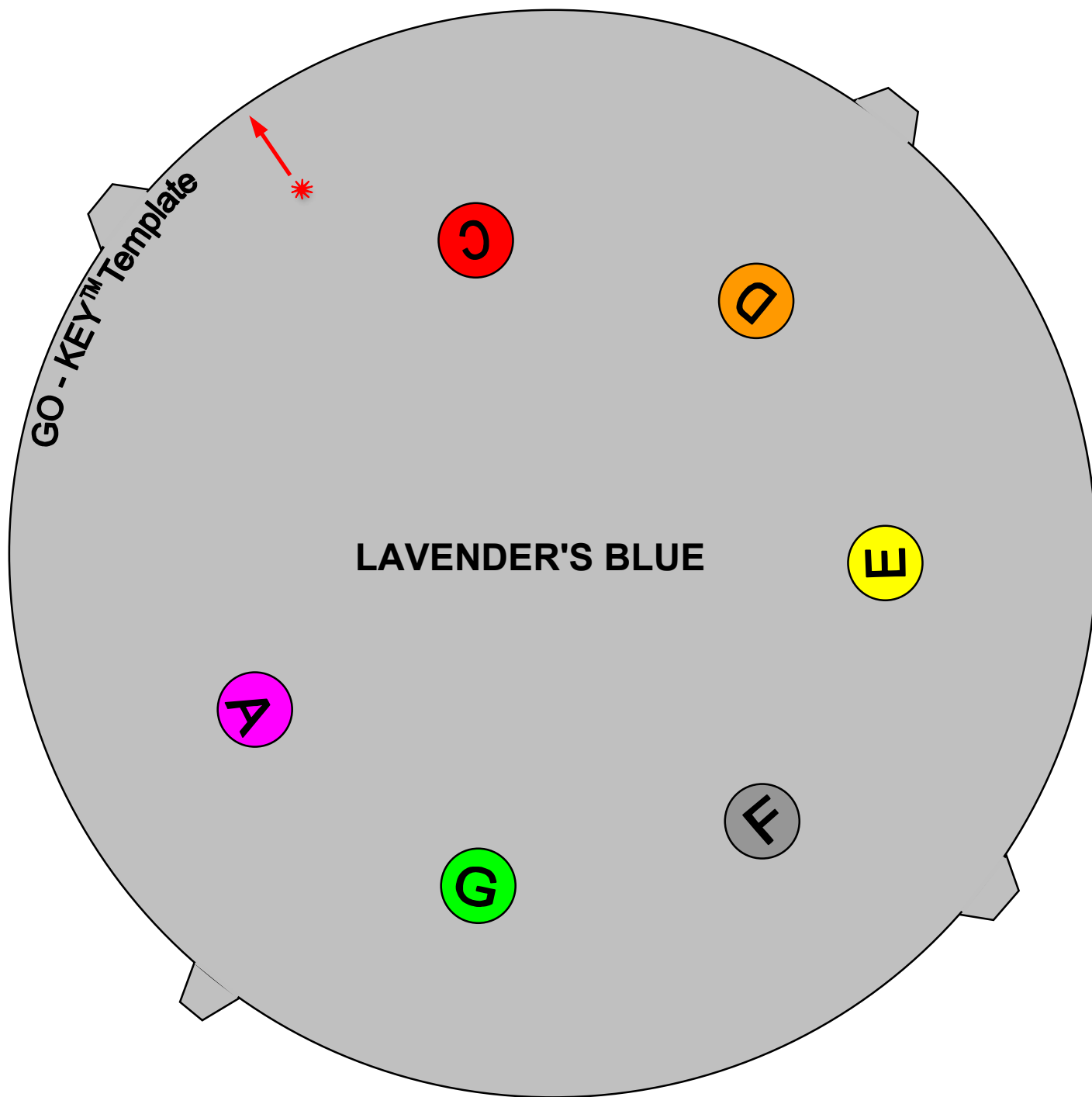
Lyrics

There are as many as thirty verses to the song, and many variations of each verse. A typical version, described by James Halliwell in 1849 is:

Lavender's blue, dilly dilly, lavender's green,
When I am king, dilly dilly, you shall be queen:
Who told you so, dilly dilly, who told you so?
'Twas mine own heart, dilly dilly, that told me so.

Call up your men, dilly dilly, set them to work,
Some with a rake, dilly dilly, some with a fork;
Some to make hay, dilly dilly, some to thresh corn,
Whilst you and I, dilly dilly, keep ourselves warm.

If you should die, dilly dilly, as it may hap,
You shall be buried, dilly dilly, under the tap;
Who told you so, dilly dilly, pray tell me why?
That you might drink, dilly dilly, when you are dry.



History and Origin

"Lavender's Blue" (sometimes called "Lavender Blue") is an English folk song and nursery rhyme dating to the 17th century. It has been recorded in various forms since the 20th century and some pop versions have been hits in the US and UK charts. The earliest surviving version of the song is in a broadside printed in England between 1672 and 1679, under the name Diddle Diddle, Or The Kind Country Lovers. The broadside indicates it is to be sung to the tune of "Lavender Green", implying that a tune by that name was already in existence. "Lavender's Blue" emerged as a children's song in *Songs for the Nursery* in 1805. A version of the song, titled "Lavender Blue", was featured in the 1949 Walt Disney film *So Dear to My Heart*, where it was sung by Burl Ives.

Notable Uses

- 1949, The Burl Ives version featured in the film *So Dear to My Heart*.
- 1949, Vera Lynn recorded a version of the song.
- 1949, Sammy Kaye's version charted at #5.
- 1949, Dinah Shore's version in charted at #1 on the Australian chart.
- 1954, In Benjamin Britten's opera, *The Turn of The Screw*, the song is sung.
- 1955, Jack Pleis recorded it for his album *Music from Disneyland*.
- 1959, Sammy Turner released a version which reached #3 on the Billboard Hot 100.
- 1960, In John Updike's short story "A Sense Of Shelter".
- 1963, Tommy Bruce made a single of the song.
- 1965, The Fleetwoods recorded a version of the song.
- 1965, Ray Walston recorded in the album "Songs from 'Mary Poppins' and other children's classics".
- 1969, In an episode of U.S. sitcom *The Ghost & Mrs. Muir*.
- 1975, Andre Norton's novel, *Lavender-Green Magic*, includes the lyrics to the song.
- 1975, The song was interpreted by Leon Russell and Mary Russell for their *Wedding Album*.
- 1976, The song was recorded by The City Waites on their eponymous (second) album.
- 1983, David Bowie sang a couplet from the song as an introduction to "Heroes" in *Serious Moonlight*.
- 1985, The British rock band Marillion recorded a song called "Lavender", a #5 hit on UK singles chart.
- 1988, Broadway singer Barbara Cook recorded a version for her release *The Disney Album*.
- 1989, The song was a prominent motif in M.M. Kaye's children's novel *The Ordinary Princess*.
- 1989, The song appeared in the horror novel *Walkers* by Graham Masterton.
- 1990, The City Waites recorded the original version on their album *Pills to Purge Melancholy*.
- 1991, The Wiggles included this song on their albums *The Wiggles* and *Pop Go The Wiggles*.
- 2011, Laura Wright recorded a version for her album *The Last Rose*.
- 2012, Alyse Black recorded with her band 'Night, Sweet Pea on their album *A Little Line of Kisses*.
- 2012, The song made several appearances in the film *Christmas Oranges*.
- 2015, The song was used again by Disney in *Cinderella*.
- 2016, Reinhard Mey recorded a version for his album *Mr. Lee*.
- 2017, The song made an appearance in the Hallmark made-for-TV movie *A Royal Winter*.
- 2017, In Hallmark Channel's original movie "A Royal Winter" a children's choir sings this song.
- 2018, Allusions to the song were made in Hazel Gaynor's novel *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter*.
- 2019, Recorded in *The Cast of the Netflix Original Series "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina"*.