

START

Lemon Tree

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE LAD MY FATHER SAID TO ME

COME HERE AND TAKE A LESSON FROM THE LOVELY

LEMON TREE DON'T PUT YOUR HOPE IN LOVE, MY BOY,

OH, LISTEN UNTO ME FOR I FEAR YOU'LL FIND

THAT LOVE IS BLIND LIKE THE LOVELY LEMON TREE LE-

MON TREE VERY PRETTY AND THE LEMON FLOWER IS SWEET BUT THE

FRUIT OF THE POOR LEMON IS IM - POS - SI - BLE TO EAT

END

Lyrics

"Lemon Tree" as written by Will Holt

When I was just a lad of ten, my father said to me
"Come here and take a lesson from the lovely lemon tree"
"Don't put your faith in love, my boy", my father said to me
"I fear you'll find that love is like the lovely lemon tree"

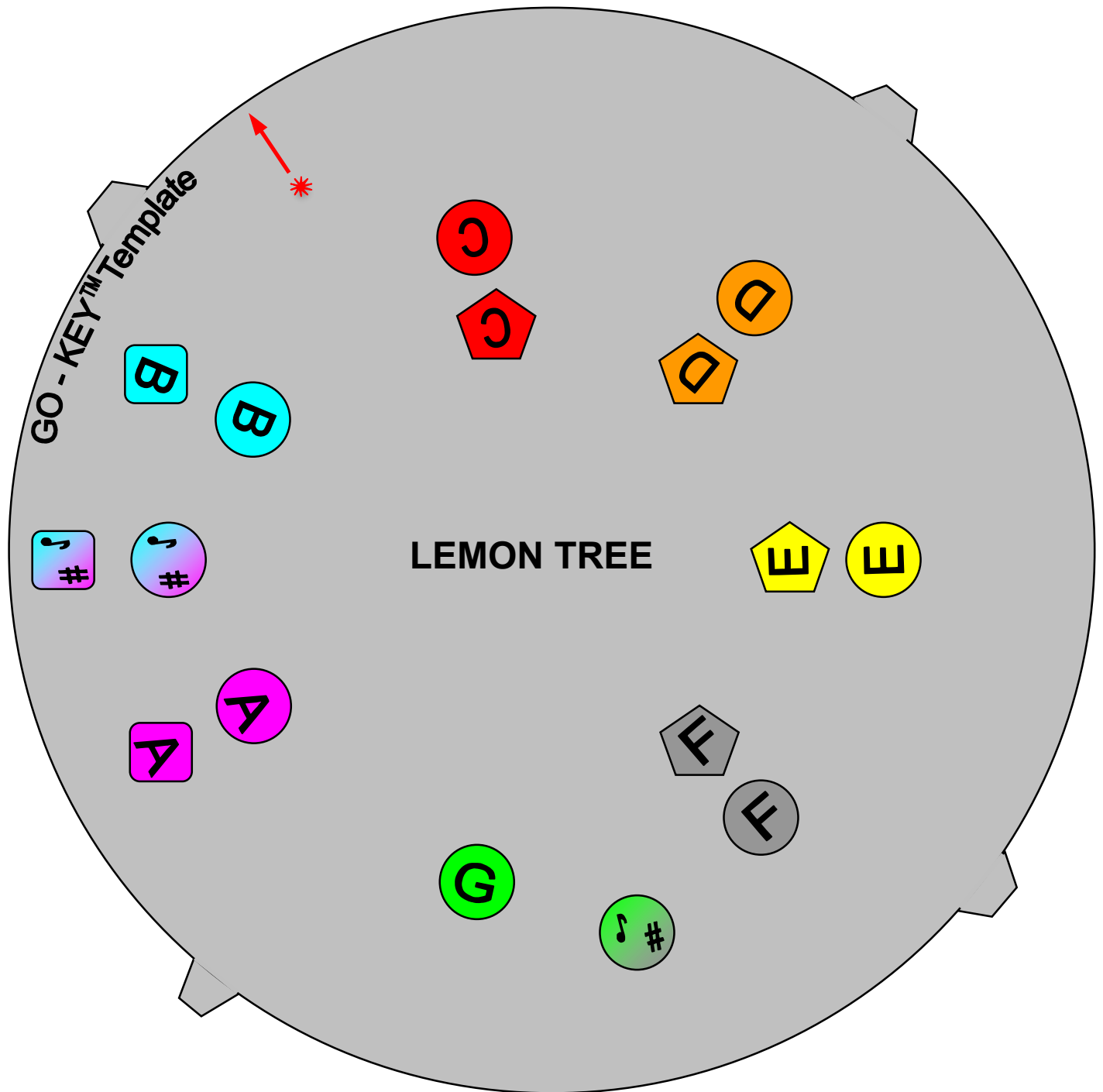
Lemon tree very pretty and the lemon flower is sweet
But the fruit of the poor lemon is impossible to eat
Lemon tree very pretty and the lemon flower is sweet
But the fruit of the poor lemon is impossible to eat

One day beneath the lemon tree, my love and I did lie
A girl so sweet that when she smiled the stars rose in the sky
We passed that summer lost in love beneath the lemon tree
The music of her laughter hid my father's words from me:

Lemon tree very pretty and the lemon flower is sweet
But the fruit of the poor lemon is impossible to eat
Lemon tree very pretty and the lemon flower is sweet
But the fruit of the poor lemon is impossible to eat

One day she left without a word, she took away the sun
And in the dark she left behind, I knew what she had done
She'd left me for another, it's a common tale but true
A sadder man but wiser now I sing these words to you:

Lemon tree very pretty and the lemon flower is sweet
But the fruit of the poor lemon is impossible to eat
Lemon tree very pretty and the lemon flower is sweet
But the fruit of the poor lemon is impossible to eat



History and Origin

"Lemon Tree" is a folk song written by Will Holt in the late 1950s. The tune is based on the Brazilian folk song *Meu limão, meu limoeiro*, arranged by José Carlos Burle in 1937 and made popular by Brazilian singer Wilson Simonal. The song compares love to a lemon tree: "Lemon tree very pretty, and the lemon flower is sweet, but the fruit of the poor lemon is impossible to eat."

Recordings:

- Peter, Paul and Mary
- Chad & Jeremy
- The Kingston Trio
- The Seekers
- Bob Marley and The Wailers
- Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass
- Sandie Shaw
- Roger Whittaker.
- In 1965, Trini Lopez recorded the most successful version of the song which hit number twenty on the Billboard Hot 100 and number two on the Billboard Middle Road Singles chart.

Other Uses:

It was adapted as a jingle in the 1960s for Lemon Pledge.

A reference is made to the song in the Seinfeld episode 'The Phone Message' (Season 2, Episode 4).

Another television reference has the character Jefferson singing it during a dream sequence in the Married With Children episode 'Lookin' for a Desk in All the Wrong Places' (Season 6, Episode 5).