

# Lullaby and Goodnight

START

A A C    A A C    A C F E D D C  
 Lullaby    and goodnight,    with    roses    bedight

G A # G G A #    G A E D C E F  
 With    lilies    o'er spread    is    baby's    wee bed

F F F D # C    A F # C D C    F F F  
 Lay thee down now and rest,    may thy    slumber    be blessed. Lay thee down

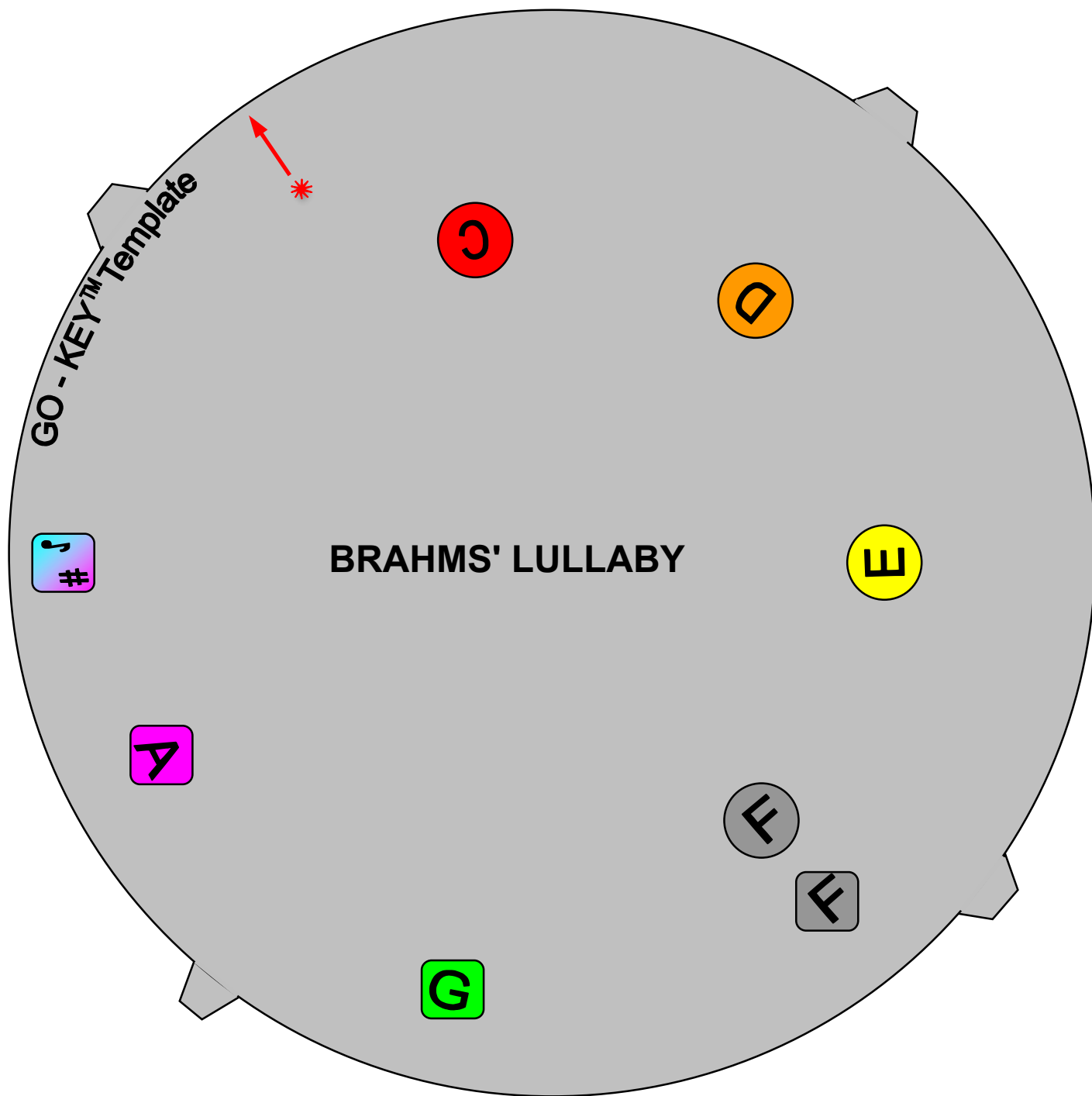
D # C    A F # A G F    END  
 now and rest,    may thy    slumber    be blessed.

## Lyrics

Lullaby and goodnight, with roses bedight  
 With lilies o'er spread is baby's wee bed  
 Lay thee down now and rest, may thy slumber be blessed  
 Lay thee down now and rest, may thy slumber be blessed

Lullaby and goodnight, thy mother's delight  
 Bright angels beside my darling abide  
 They will guard thee at rest, thou shalt wake on my breast  
 They will guard thee at rest, thou shalt wake on my breast

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## History and Origin

Johannes Brahms's Wiegenlied, frequently referred to in English as **Brahms's Lullaby** or Cradle Song, is the composer's Op. 49, No. 4, originally written for voice and piano, published in 1868.

The Lullaby was dedicated to Brahms's friend, Bertha Faber, on the occasion of the birth of her second son. Brahms had been in love with her in her youth and constructed the melody of the "Wiegenlied" to suggest, as a hidden counter-melody, a song she used to sing to him. The lullaby was first performed in public on 22 December 1869 in Vienna by Louise Dustmann (singer) and Clara Schumann (piano).

The lyrics of the first verse are from the collection of German folk poems, Des Knaben Wunderhorn and the second stanza was written by Georg Scherer in 1849.

### Brahms version

Guten Abend, gut' Nacht,  
mit Rosen bedacht,  
mit Näglein besteckt,  
schlupf unter die Deck':  
Morgen früh, wenn Gott will,  
wirst du wieder geweckt.

Guten Abend, gut' Nacht,  
von Englein bewacht,  
die zeigen im Traum  
dir Christkindleins Baum:  
schlaf nun selig und süß,  
schau im Traum 's Paradies.

### English literal translation

Good evening, good night,  
With roses covered,  
With cloves adorned,  
Slip under the covers.  
Tomorrow morning, if God wills,  
you will wake once again.

Good evening, good night.  
By angels watched,  
Who show you in your dream  
the Christ-child's tree.  
Sleep now blissfully and sweetly,  
see the paradise in your dream.

In 1922, Australian pianist and composer Percy Grainger arranged the Wiegenlied as one of his "Free Settings of Favorite Melodies" for solo piano.

A 1936 biographical film of Brahms with Albert Florath as the composer, took its title from the opening lines of this song, Guten Abend, gute Nacht.

### Recordings

1937 Elisabeth Schumann with orchestral accompaniment on Romophone, re-issued on Naxos Historical.

1941 Bing Crosby – recorded May 23, 1941, with John Scott Trotter and his Orchestra.

1944 Frank Sinatra – recorded December 3, 1944, with Axel Stordahl and his Orchestra.

1947 Lotte Lehmann (soprano) on RCA Victor.

1953 Rosemary Clooney – recorded February 3, with The Percy Faith Orchestra, as "Close Your Eyes".

1958 Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (baritone) and Gerald Moore (piano) on Orfeo C140201.

1958 Joni James – recorded for her album Among My Souvenirs.

1962 Elisabeth Schwarzkopf (soprano) and Gerald Moore on Testament Records (UK) 1206.

1973 Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Wolfgang Sawallisch (piano) on EMI Classics ASIN: B000005GQ9.

1978 Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Daniel Barenboim (piano) on Deutsche Grammophon.

1989 Anne Sofie von Otter and Bengt Forsberg (piano) on Deutsche Grammophon 429727.

2013 Bernarda Fink (mezzo-soprano) and Roger Vignoles (piano).