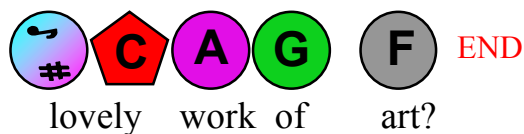
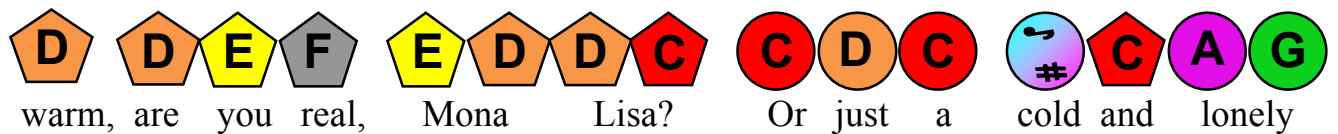
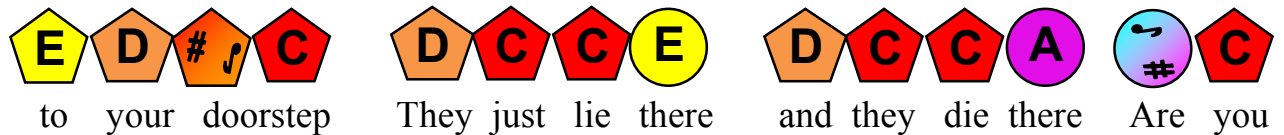
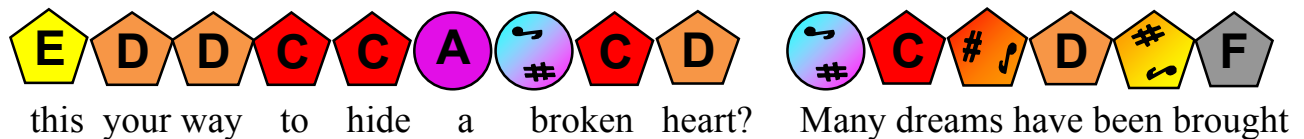
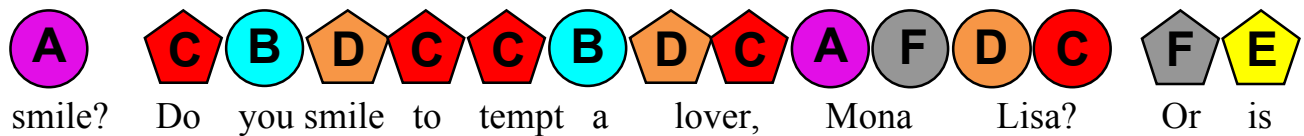
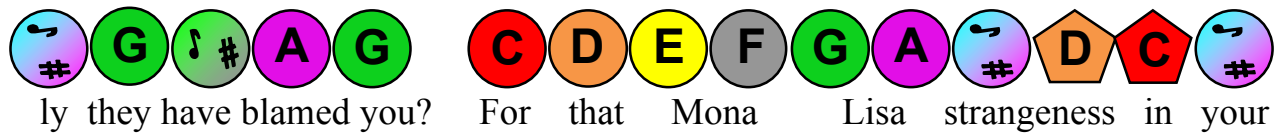
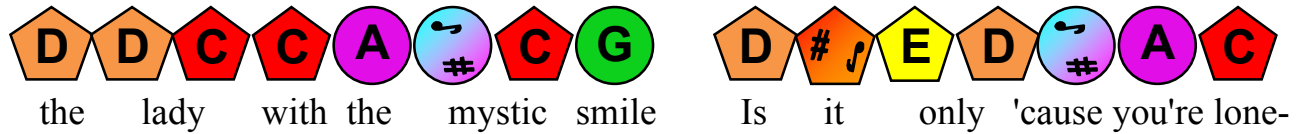
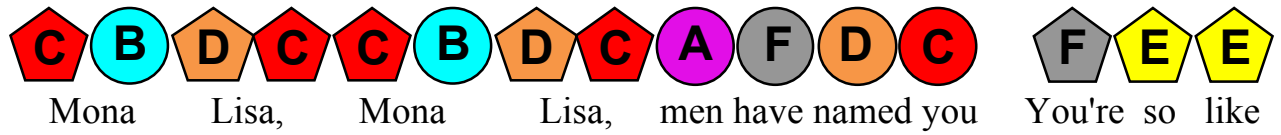
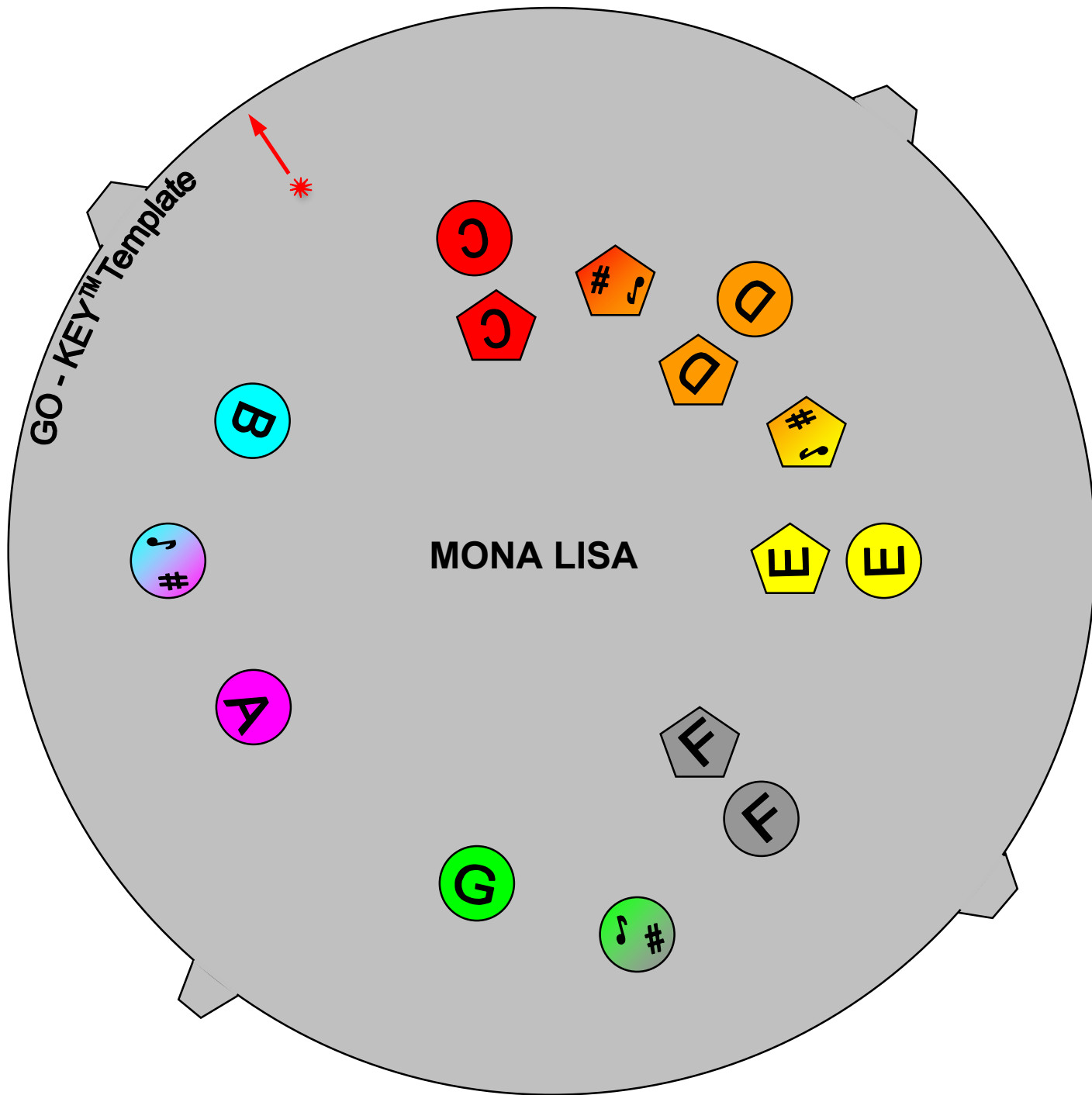


Mona Lisa

START





History and Origin

"Mona Lisa" is a popular song written by Ray Evans and Jay Livingston for the Paramount Pictures film *Captain Carey, U.S.A.* (1950). The title and lyrics refer to the renaissance portrait *Mona Lisa* painted by Leonardo da Vinci. The song won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1950. The song's first musical arrangement was in an orchestration by Nelson Riddle, and the orchestral backing was played by Les Baxter and his Orchestra. The recording was originally the B-side of "The Greatest Inventor Of Them All."

- 1950, The soundtrack by Nat King Cole spent five weeks at number one in the Billboard singles chart.
- 1950, Sales by Dennis Day, Victor Young, Art Lund, Ralph Flanagan, Charlie Spivak and Harry James.
- 1950, Released by Moon Mullican #4 (Country) and Jimmy Wakely #10 (Country).
- 1954, Partygoers sing "Mona Lisa" in the background of one scene in Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*.
- 1956, Bing Crosby recorded the song for his album *Songs I Wish I Had Sung the First Time Around*.
- 1959, Elvis Presley 1959 (home recording)
- 1959, A rockabilly version of "Mona Lisa" (b/w/ "Foolish One") was released by Carl Mann.
- 1959, Conway Twitty recorded a version of "Mona Lisa" .
- 1964, Andy Williams released a version in an album.
- 1970, Phil Ochs performed the song in 1970 at his infamous Carnegie Hall concert.
- 1981, Willie Nelson, Shakin' Stevens, and the Neville Brothers
- 1986, The song was used as the theme to the British film *Mona Lisa*.
- 1990, Little Willie Littlefield recorded a version for his album *Singalong with Little Willie Littlefield*.
- 1992, Nat King Cole's version of the song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.
- 1992, Released by Nat King Cole's daughter Natalie Cole.
- 1994, Alexia Vassiliou covered the song in the live album from Sony BMG *Horis Revma*.
- 1998, The song was used in the wedding scene of the NBC mini-series, *Witness to the Mob*.
- 2005, Brian Setzer covered the Mann version in *Rockabilly Riot Vol. 1: A Tribute to Sun Records*.
- 2009, Harry Connick, Jr. included the song on his album, *Your Songs*.