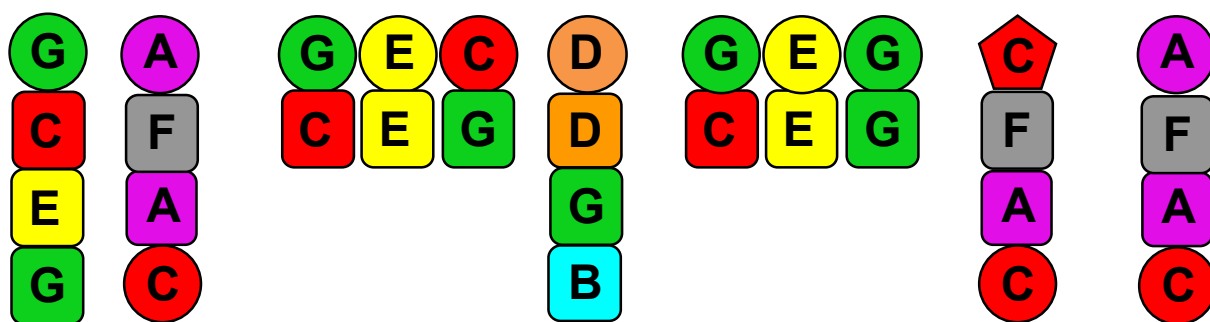


Morning Has Broken

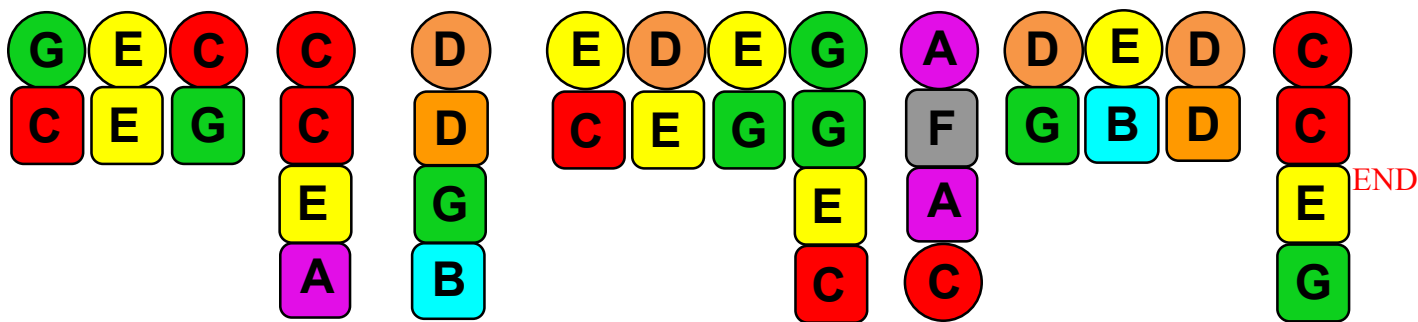
START



Morning has broken like the first morning Blackbird has



spoken like the first bird Praise for the singing



Praise for the morning Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

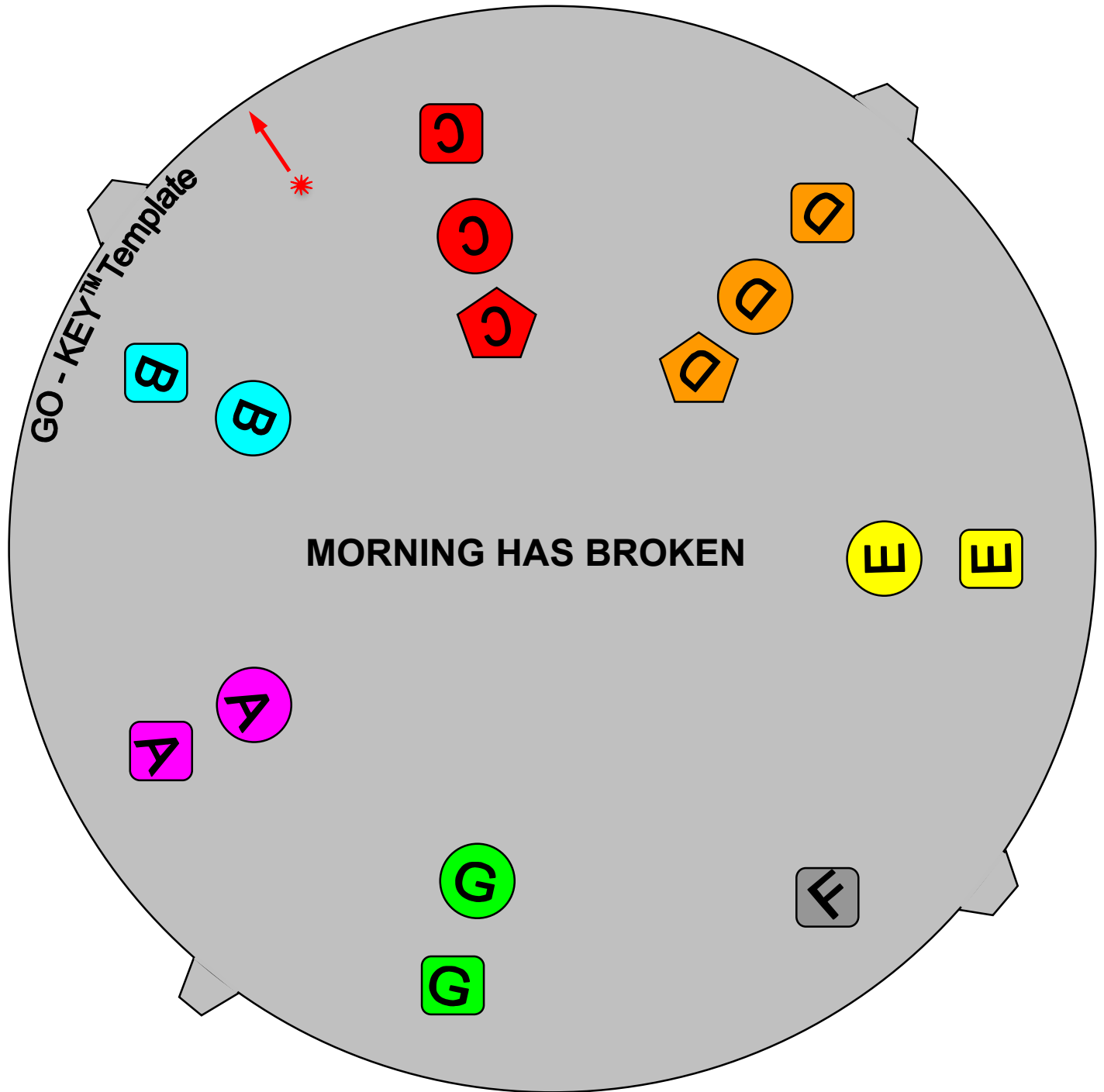
Lyrics

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning
God's recreation of the new day

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world



History and Origin

"Morning Has Broken" is a Christian hymn first published in 1931. It has words by English author Eleanor Farjeon and was inspired by the village of Alfriston in East Sussex, then set to a traditional Scottish Gaelic tune, "Bunessan" It is often sung in children's services and in funeral services.

English pop musician and folk singer Cat Stevens included a version on his 1971 album *Teaser and the Firecat*. The song became identified with Stevens due to the popularity of this recording. It reached number six on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100, number one on the U.S. easy listening chart in 1972, and number four on the Canadian RPM Magazine charts.

Origins

The hymn originally appeared in the second edition of *Songs of Praise* (published in 1931), to the tune "Bunessan", composed in the Scottish Islands. In *Songs of Praise Discussed*, the editor, Percy Dearmer, explains that as there was need for a hymn to give thanks for each day, English poet and children's author Eleanor Farjeon had been "asked to make a poem to fit the lovely Scottish tune." A slight variation on the original hymn, also written by Eleanor Farjeon, can be found in the form of a poem contributed to the anthology *Children's Bells*, under Farjeon's new title, "A Morning Song (For the First Day of Spring)", published by Oxford University Press in 1957.

"Bunessan" had been found in L. McBean's *Songs and Hymns of the Gael*, published in 1900. Before Farjeon's words, the tune was used as a Christmas carol, which began "Child in the manger, infant of Mary", translated from the Scottish Gaelic lyrics written by Mary MacDonald. The English-language Roman Catholic hymnal also uses the tune for the James Quinn hymns, "Christ Be Beside Me" and "This Day God Gives Me", both of which were adapted from the traditional Irish hymn *St. Patrick's Breastplate*. Another Christian hymn, "Baptized In Water", borrows the tune.

Writing credit for "Morning Has Broken" has occasionally been erroneously attributed to Cat Stevens, who popularised the song abroad. The piano arrangement on Stevens' recording was composed and performed by Rick Wakeman, a classically trained keyboardist who would shortly join the English progressive rock band Yes. In 2000, Wakeman released an instrumental version of "Morning Has Broken" on an album of the same title.

The song has been recorded by numerous artists, including The New Seekers, Steven Curtis Chapman, Judy Collins, Michael Card, Floyd Cramer, Dana, Neil Diamond, Órla Fallon, Art Garfunkel, Ellen Greene, Esther Ofarim, Daliah Lavi, Joe Longthorne, Jojje Wadenius & Anni-Frid Lyngstad (2010), the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Nana Mouskouri, Aaron Neville, Kenny Rogers and the First Edition, Joseph McManners, Sister Janet Mead, Mary O'Hara, Demis Roussos, Third Day, The Brilliance, Pam Tillis, Hayley Westenra, Roger Whittaker, 2nd Chapter of Acts, Libera (choir), Richard Souther and Dana Winner.

The song has been translated or adapted into many languages, including German ("Schön ist der Morgen", performed by Nana Mouskouri among others), French ("Matin brisé", performed by Eva on her 1972 album *L'orage*), and others.