

# O Holy Night

START

**E E E G G G A A F A C G G E D C**  
Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night

**E F G F D C E E E G G G A A F**  
of the dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and err-

**A C G G ♯ E B G A B C B E**  
or pining, Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

**G G A D G A G C E A G G G A**  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder

**D G A G C E G C C B A B B**  
breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees!

**B D D A A A C C C C E E D G C**  
Oh, hear the angel voices! Oh night divine,

**C B A G G G A G G G C D D**  
Oh night when Christ was born, Oh night

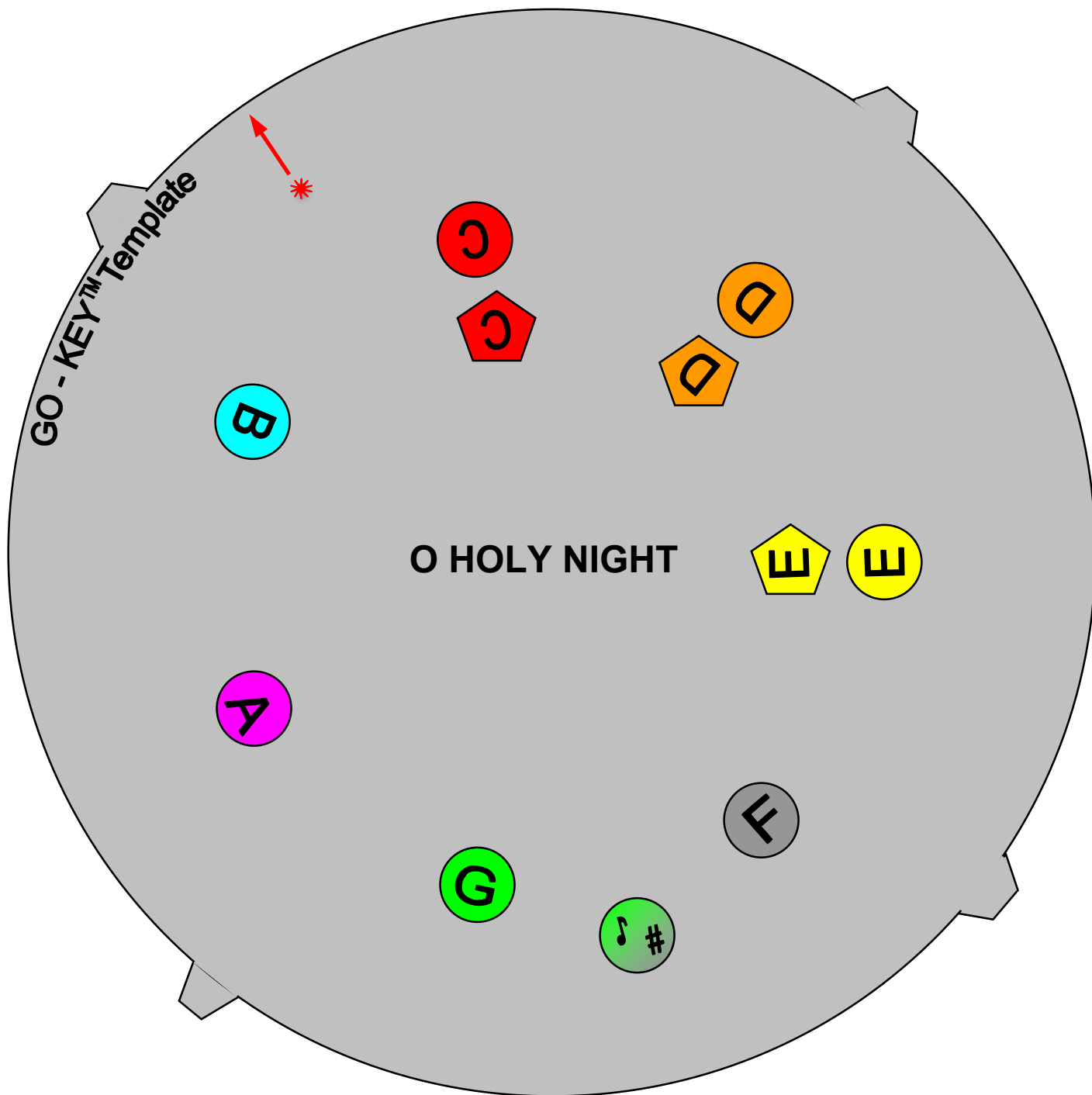
**G E E D C B C D C** END  
divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.

## Lyrics

**Oh holy night!** The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born,  
Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.  
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, Behold your King.

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.



## History and Origin

**"O Holy Night"** (French: "Minuit, chrétiens", "Minuit, chrétien" in original edition, or "Cantique de Noël") is a well-known Christmas carol composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847 to the French poem "Minuit, chrétiens" (Midnight, Christians) written by wine merchant and poet Placide Cappeau (1808–1877). In both the French original and the English version of the carol, as well as in many other languages, the text reflects on the birth of Jesus and on humanity's redemption.

In Roquemaure at the end of 1843, the church organ had recently been renovated. To celebrate the event, the parish priest persuaded wine merchant and poet Placide Cappeau, a native of the town, to write a Christmas poem. Soon afterwards that same year, Adolphe Adam composed the music. The song was premiered in Roquemaure in 1847 by the opera singer Emily Laury. Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight, editor of Dwight's Journal of Music, translated the song into English lyrics in 1855.

### **Recordings**

1960: Nat King Cole, on his album *The Magic of Christmas*.

1968: Mahalia Jackson, on her album *Christmas With Mahalia*.

1968: Mireille Mathieu, with her father Roger Mathieu, on her *Chante Noël* album.

1992: Bill Pinkney & The Original Drifters, in the *Wisepack White Christmas Compilation*.

1993/1999: Michael Crawford, on Foster's best-selling *The Christmas Album*

1994: Mariah Carey's rendition on holiday album, *Merry Christmas*, sold 15 million copies.

1996: John Berry's version charted at No. 55 on the *Billboard Hot Country Songs Chart*.

1997: Martina McBride's rendering charted at No. 74 on *Hot Country Songs chart*.

1999: Trans-Siberian Orchestra's platinum-selling DVD *The Ghosts of Christmas Eve*.

2002: Josh Groban (No. 1 *Billboard Adult Contemporary*).

2004: Celine Dion, featured on her 5× platinum album *These Are Special Times*.

2006: Josh Gracin's version charted at No. 59 on *Hot Country Songs chart*.

2009: Andrea Bocelli, for his double platinum *My Christmas* album.