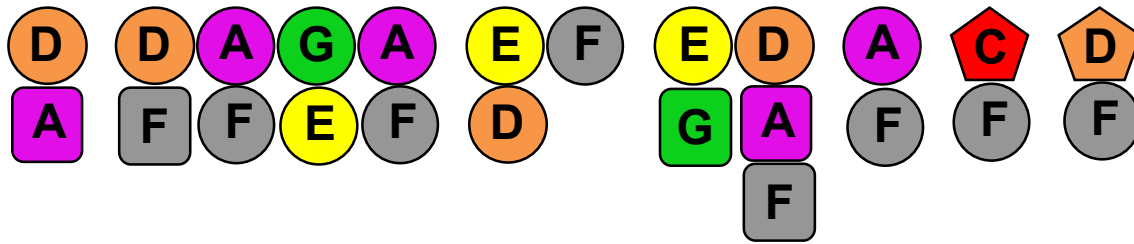
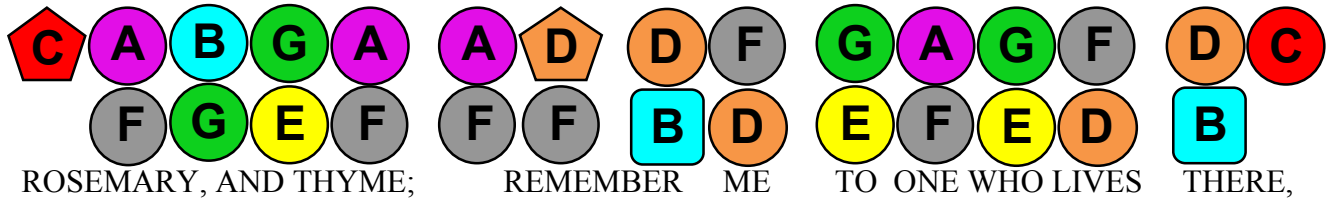


Scarborough Fair

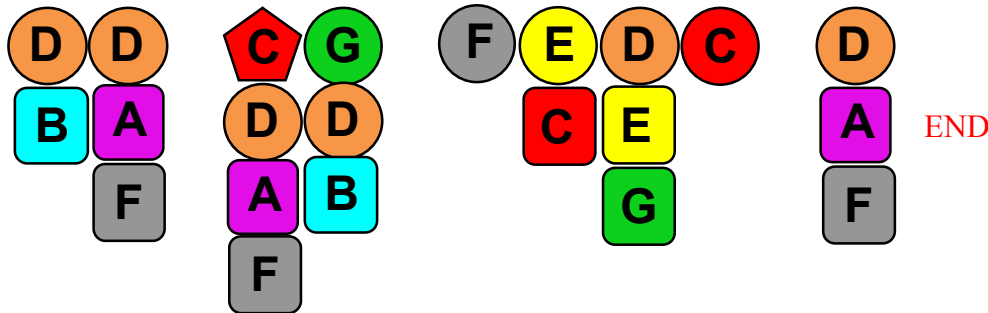
START



ARE YOU GOING TO SCARBOROUGH FAIR? PARSLEY, SAGE,



ROSEMARY, AND THYME; REMEMBER ME TO ONE WHO LIVES THERE,



FOR SHE WAS ONCE A TRUE LOVE OF MINE.

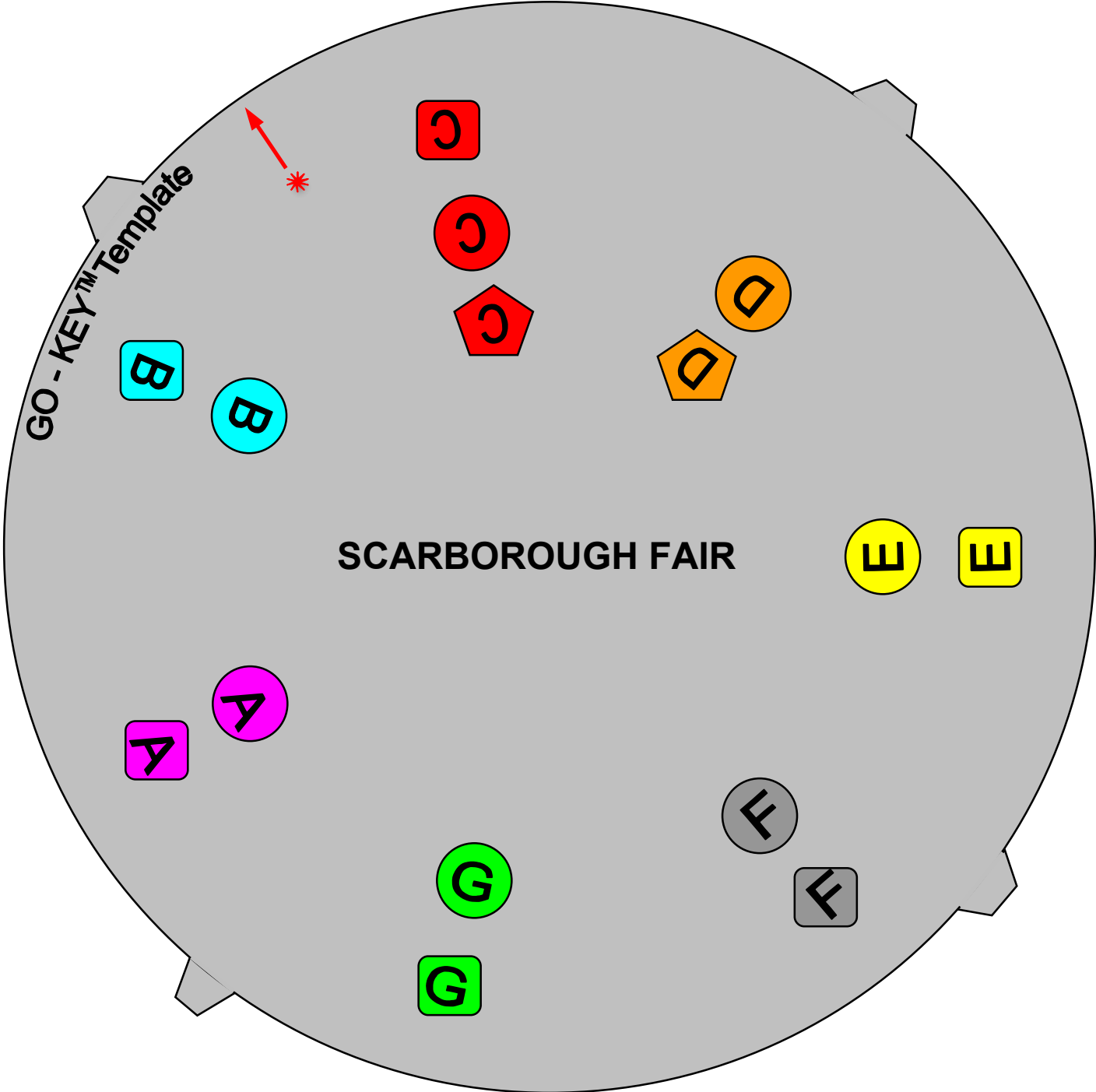
Lyrics

Male part:

Are you going to Scarborough Fair?
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;
 Remember me to one who lives there,
 For she was once a true love of mine.
 Tell her to make me a cambric shirt,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;
 Without any seam or needlework,
 Then she shall be a true love of mine.
 Tell her to wash it in yonder well,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;
 Where never sprung water or rain ever fell,
 And she shall be a true lover of mine.
 Tell her to dry it on yonder thorn,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;
 Which never bore blossom since Adam was born,
 Then she shall be a true lover of mine.

Female part:

Now he has asked me questions three,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;
 I hope he'll answer as many for me,
 Before he shall be a true lover of mine.
 Tell him to buy me an acre of land,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;
 Between the salt water and the sea sand,
 Then he shall be a true lover of mine.
 Tell him to plough it with a ram's horn,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;
 And sow it all over with one peppercorn,
 And he shall be a true lover of mine.
 Tell him to sheer't with a sickle of leather,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;
 And bind it up with a peacock's feather,
 And he shall be a true lover of mine.
 Tell him to thrash it on yonder wall,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme,
 And never let one corn of it fall,
 Then he shall be a true lover of mine.
 When he has done and finished his work,
 Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme:
 Oh, tell him to come and he'll have his shirt,
 And he shall be a true lover of mine.



History and Origin

"Scarborough Fair" is a traditional English ballad that hangs, in some versions at least, upon a possible visit by an unidentified person (the "third party") to the Yorkshire town of Scarborough. The song implies the tale of a man who instructs the third party to tell his former love, who lives in said fair town, to perform for him a series of impossible tasks, such as making for him a shirt without a seam and no needlework and then washing it in a dry empty well, adding that if she were to complete these tasks he would take her back into his affections. Often the song is sung as a duet, with the woman then giving her sometime lover a series of equally impossible tasks, promising to give him his seamless shirt and her heart once he has finished.

As the versions of the ballad known under the title "Scarborough Fair" are usually limited to the exchange of these impossible tasks, many suggestions concerning the plot have been proposed, including the hypothesis that it is about the Great Plague of the late Middle Ages. The lyrics of "Scarborough Fair" appear to have something in common with an obscure Scottish ballad, "The Elfin Knight" (Child Ballad #2) by Francis James Child, which has been traced as far back as 1670 and may well be earlier. The melody is in Dorian mode and is very typical of the middle English period.

As the song spread, it was adapted, modified and rewritten to the point that dozens of versions existed by the end of the 18th century, although only a few are typically sung nowadays. The references to the traditional English fair, "Scarborough Fair" and the refrain "parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme" date to 19th century versions.

Known Uses

- 1955 The earliest commercial recording of the ballad was by actor/singers Gordon Heath and Lee Payant.
- 1955 The song was included on A. L. Lloyd's album *The English And Scottish Popular Ballads*.
- 1956 Simon & Garfunkel in "Scarborough Fair/Canticle" was recorded on an album, *English Folk Songs*.
- 1957 It was included by Ewan MacColl on *Matching Songs For The British Isles And America*.
- 1959 Shirley Collins on the album *False True Lovers*.
- 1960's The Alan Copeland singers recorded a song that combined "Classical Gas" with "Scarborough Fair".
- 1960 MacColl and Peggy Seeger on *The Singing Island*.
- 1966 Marianne Faithfull released her own take on her album *North Country Maid*.
- 1966 Simon & Garfunkel released their single version of the song in October.
- 1968 Sergio Mendes & Brasil '66 recorded this song in their album *Fool on the Hill*.
- 1973 Featured in Ralph Bakshi's second animated feature film *Heavy Traffic*.
- 1989 Justin Hayward recorded this song in his covers album *Classic Blue*.
- 2000 Sarah Brightman released this song in her album *La Luna*.
- 2003 Queensrÿche released this song as a CD bonus track on the re-issue of their 1990 album *Empire*.
- 2009 My Dying Bride English doom-metal band, recorded this song on their *Bring Me Victory EP*.
- 2010 Kokia sang a version of "Scarborough Fair" in her album, *Musique a la Carte*.
- 2011 The Gothard Sisters released a folk version on their album, *Story Girl*.
- 2017 Tamaru Yamada sang a version of "Scarborough Fair" for the opening episode of *WorldEnd*.
- 2017 Norwegian singer Aurora sang a version of "Scarborough Fair" in telenovela *Deus Salve o Rei*.
- 2018 Jess & Matt covered the song on their album *Songs from the Village*.
- 2018 the singer Valen covered the song for commercials promoting HLN's original programming.
- In the video game *Phantasy Star Nova*, two instances of "Scarborough Fair" appear.
- Variations of the song are used as the music for England civilization in *Civilization VI*.