

Silver Bells

START

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, Dressed in hol - i - day style, In the

air there is a feeling, of Christmas. Children laughing, People passing

Meeting smile after smile, And on every street corner you'll hear:

Silver bells, silver bells, It's Christmas time in the city.

Ring- a- ling, hear them ring, soon it will be Christmas

day. **END**

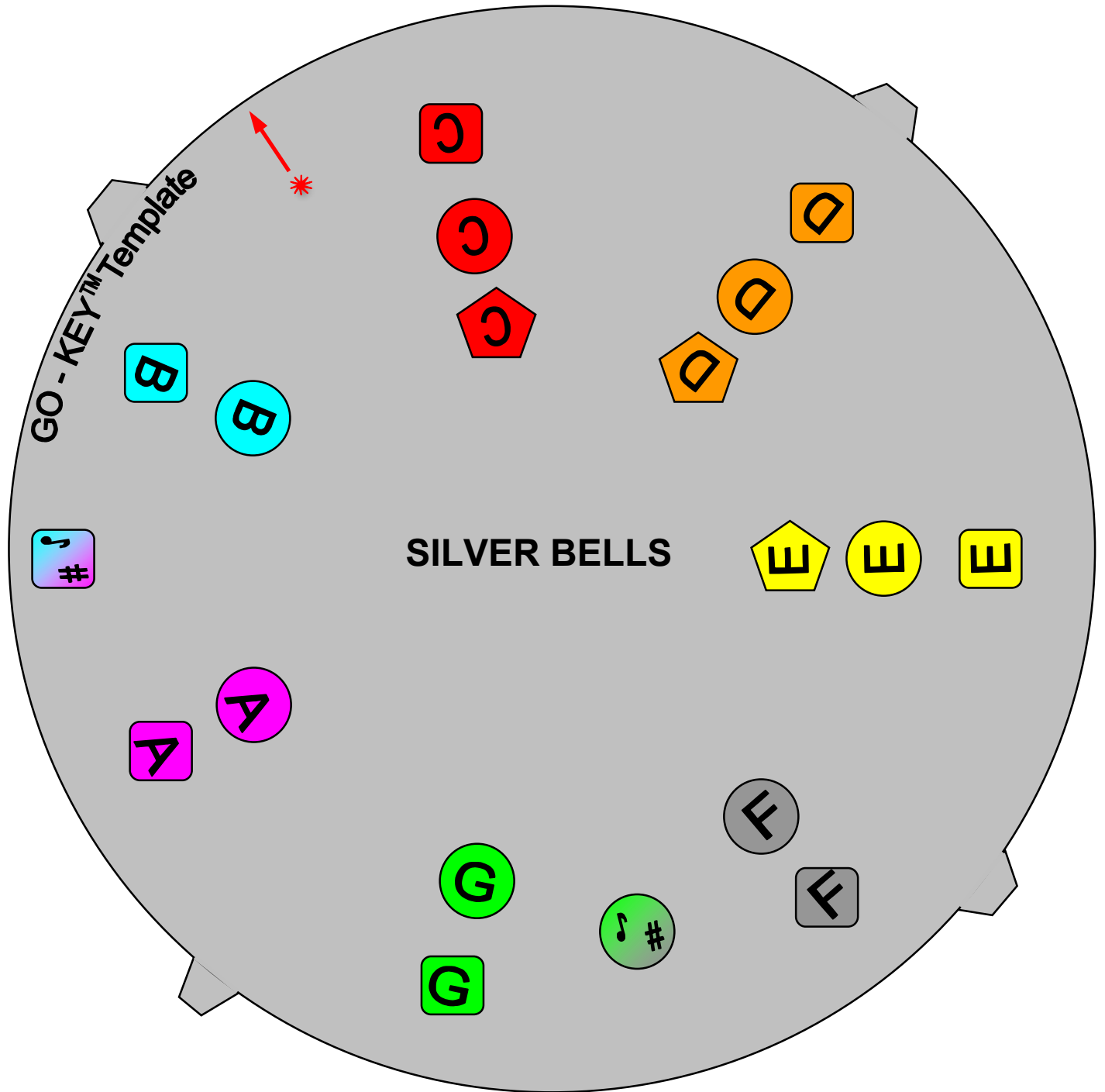
Lyrics

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks,
Dressed in holiday style,
In the air there is a feeling,
of Christmas
Children laughing,
People passing
Meeting smile after smile,
And on every street corner you'll hear :

Silver bells, silver bells
It's Christmas time in the city
ring- a- ling, hear them ring,
soon it will be Christmas day.

Strings of street lights,
Even stop lights,
Blink a bright red and green
As the shoppers rush,
home with their treasures.
Hear the snow crunch,
See the kids bunch,
This is Santa's big scene,
And above all this bustle You'll hear :

Silver bells, silver bells ,
It's Christmas time in the city,
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring,
Soon it will be Christmas day.



History and Origin

"**Silver Bells**" is a popular Christmas song, composed by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans. "Silver Bells" was first sung by William Frawley, then sung in its entirety and in the generally-known version immediately after by Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell in the motion picture *The Lemon Drop Kid*, filmed in July–August 1950 and released in March 1951.

The first recorded version was by Bing Crosby and Carol Richards on September 8, 1950 with John Scott Trotter and his Orchestra and the Lee Gordon Singers which was released by Decca Records in October 1950. After the Crosby and Richards recording became popular, Hope and Maxwell were called back in late 1950 to refilm a more elaborate production of the song.

"Silver Bells" started out as "Tinkle Bells." Said Ray Evans, "We never thought that tinkle had a double meaning until Jay went home and his first wife said, 'Are you out of your mind? Do you know what the word tinkle is?'" The word is slang for urination.

This song's inspiration has conflicting reports. Several periodicals and interviews cite the writer Jay Livingston stating that the song's inspiration came from the bells used by sidewalk Santa Clauses and Salvation Army solicitors on New York City street corners. However, in an interview with NPR co-writer Ray Evans said that the song was inspired by a bell that sat on an office desk shared by Livingston and himself.

The song charted in the United Kingdom for the first time in 2009 when a duet by Terry Wogan and Aled Jones recorded for charity reached the Top 40, peaking at number 27.