

Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral

START

Over in Killarney, many years ago My mother sang
 a song to me in tones so sweet and low Just a simple little
 ditty in her good old Irish way And I'd give the world if she
 could sing that song to me this day Too - ra - loo - ra - loo - ral
 Too - ra - loo - ra - li Too - ra - loo - ra - loo - ral Hush now don't you
 cry Too - ra - loo - ra - loo - ral Too - ra - loo - ra - li
 Too - ra - loo - ra - loo - ral that's an Irish lullaby. END

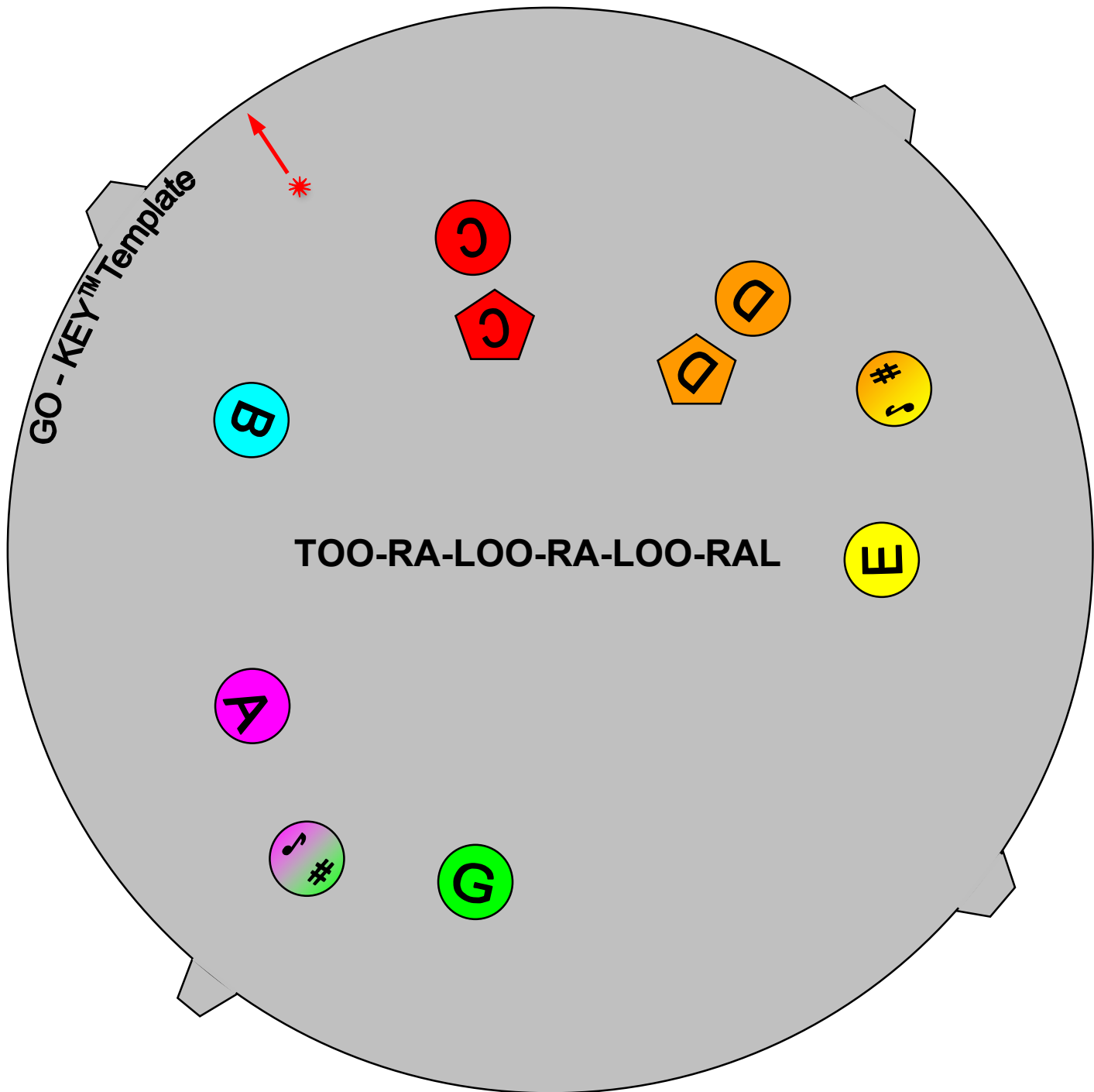
Lyrics

Over in Killarney, many years ago
 My mother sang a song to me
 in tones so sweet and low
 Just a simple little ditty
 in her good old Irish way
 And I'd give the world if she could sing
 that song to me this day

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, Too-ra-loo-ra-li,
 Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, hush now, don't you cry!
 Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, Too-ra-loo-ra-li,
 Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, that's an Irish lullaby.

Oft in dreams I wander
 to that cot again.
 I feel her arms a-hugging me
 As when she held me then.
 And I hear her voice a-hummin'
 to me as in the days of yore,
 when she used to rock me fast asleep
 outside the cabin door.

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, Too-ra-loo-ra-li,
 Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, hush now, don't you cry!
 Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, Too-ra-loo-ra-li,
 Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, that's an Irish lullaby.



History and Origin

"Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral (That's an Irish Lullaby)" is a classic Irish-American song originally written in 1913 by composer James Royce Shannon (1881–1946) for the Tin Pan Alley musical *Shameen Dhu*. The original recording of the song, by Chauncey Olcott, peaked at #1 on the music charts. The song was brought back to prominence by Bing Crosby's performance in 1944's *Going My Way*. Crosby's single sold over a million copies and peaked at #4 on the Billboard music charts

Released in 1913, the song was a #1 hit for Chauncey Olcott.

"Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral (That's an Irish Lullaby)" was written by lyricist and actor Shannon in 1913 for the play *Shameen Dhu* ("Black-Haired Jimmy" or "Dark Jimmy"). Prior to the play's debut, singer Chauncey Olcott took it into the studio to record it on July 30, 1913. Popular, his single peaked at #1 on the music charts in December 1913.

In 1944, Bing Crosby released a version of the song which brought it to public attention again. First performed in the film *Going My Way*, it was subsequently released as a single that sold over a million copies and peaked at #4 on Billboard music charts. His first recording was made on July 7, 1944 but mechanical difficulties with the matrix led to it being recorded again on July 17, 1945. It is this version which appears on subsequent LPs and CDs. In 1945, the Crosby version of the song was also featured in the film *Nob Hill*.

In 1976, Richard Manuel and Van Morrison sang the song, as "Tura Lura Lural (That's An Irish Lullaby)", during The Band's farewell concert *The Last Waltz*. "Come On, Eileen," a #1 U.K. chart single from the English band Dexys Midnight Runners, includes a chorus with the lines "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra Too-Ra-Loo-Rye, And you'll hum this tune forever." The song appeared on their 1982 album titled *Too-Rye-Ay*. Steve Martin performed the song for comic effect in the film *Housesitter*. The song also featured memorably in a Season 2, Episode 8 cold open of *Cheers*, as the denizens of the bar sang the lullaby over the telephone to an infant Tortelli.

Others who have recorded the song include Bobby Darin, Connie Francis, Perry Como, The Ames Brothers, Regis Philbin, Jessi Colter, Slim Whitman, Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin, The Irish Tenors, Rosemary Clooney, Kate Smith, Gene Autry, Frances Faye, John Gary, Kenny Loggins, and Piccolo Coro Mariele Ventre dell'Antoniano.