

Up On The House Top

START

Up on the house top reindeer pause

Out jumps good old Santa Claus

Down through the chimney, with lots of toys, All for the little ones' Christ-

mas joys. Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go. Ho, ho, ho! Who would-

n't go. Up on the housetop, click, click, click Down through the chim-

ney with old Saint Nick. END

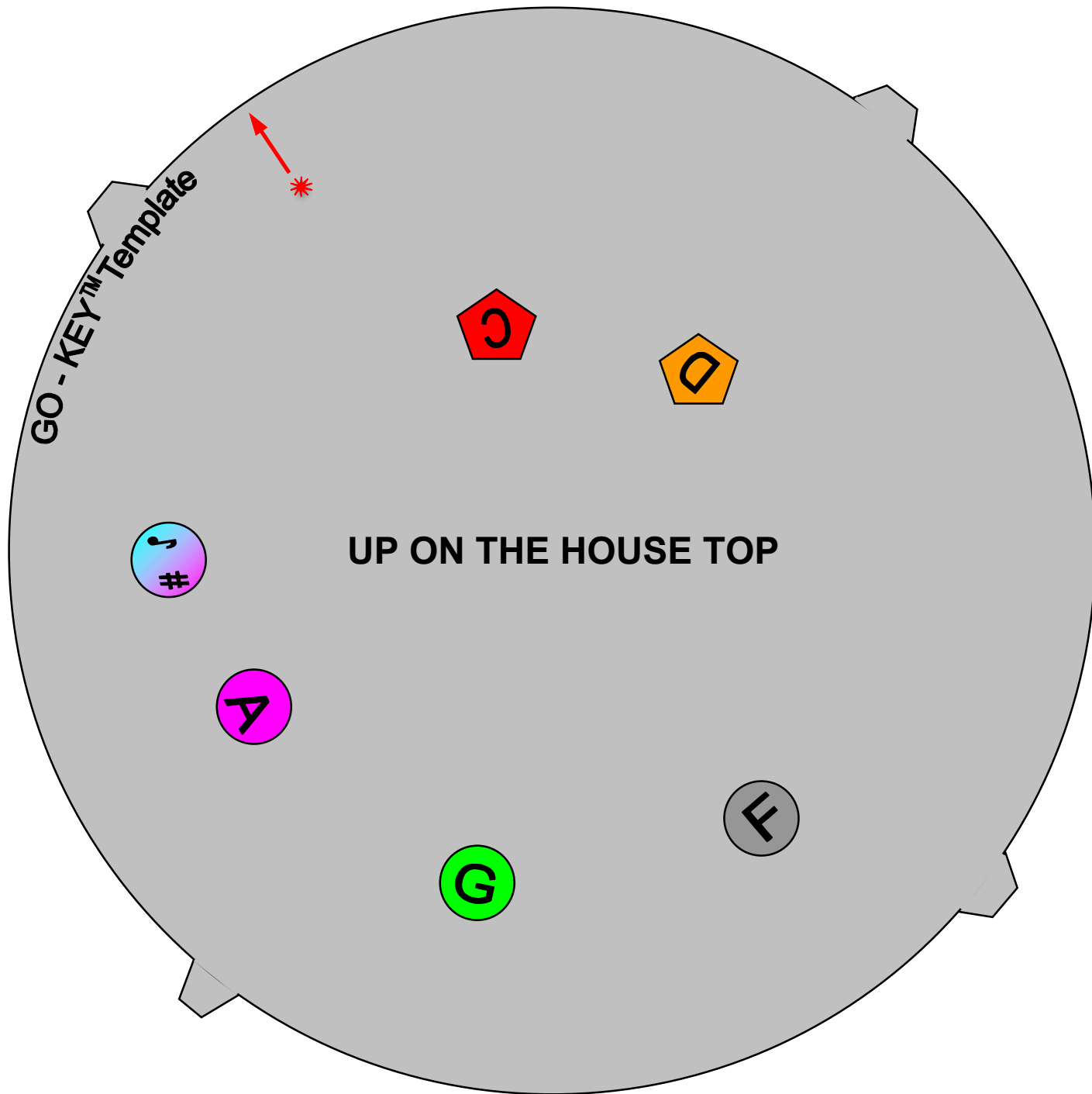
Lyrics

Up on the housetop reindeer pause
 Out jumps good old Santa Claus.
 Down through the chimney, with lots of toys,
 All for the little ones' Christmas joys.
Chorus:
 Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go.
 Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go,
 Up on the housetop, click, click, click;
 Down through the chimney with old Saint Nick.

Verse 2:
 First comes the stocking of little Nell;
 Oh, dear Santa fill it well!
 Give her a dolly that laughs and cries;
 One that will open and shut her eyes.

Repeat chorus
Verse 3:
 Next comes the stocking of little Bill;
 Oh just see what a glorious fill!
 Here is a hammer and lots of tacks;
 A whistle and a ball and a whip that cracks!

Repeat chorus



History and Origin

"Up on the House Top" is a Christmas song written by Benjamin Hanby in 1864. It has been recorded by a multitude of singers, most notably Gene Autry in 1953. According to William Studwell in *The Christmas Carol Reader*, "Up on the House Top" was the second-oldest secular Christmas song, outdone only by "Jingle Bells", which was written in 1857. It is also considered the first Yuletide song to focus primarily on Santa Claus. According to *Readers Digest Merry Christmas Song Book*, Hanby probably owes the idea that Santa and his sleigh land on the roof of homes to Clement C. Moore's 1822 poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (also commonly known as "The Night Before Christmas").

In 2005, the song was brought back to life with a new recording by Kimberley Locke. The recording broke a Billboard record when it made the largest leap into the Top 5 in the AC chart's history, moving from 32 to 5 in only a week. It was also the second longest Billboard holiday AC chart topper in the chart's history, sitting at #1 for 4 consecutive weeks.

Other Notable Uses:

- 1956, Lawrence Welk with Larry Hooper, as "High On The House Top".
- 1961, Alvin and the Chipmunks – Christmas with The Chipmunks.
- 1962, Eddy Arnold – Eddy Arnold Christmas Album.
- 1963, Don Janse and his 60 Voice Children's Choir - The Little Drummer Boy.
- 1970, The Jackson 5 – The Jackson 5 Christmas Album.
- 1994, Sammy Kershaw – Christmas Time's A-Comin'.
- 1996, Jimmy Buffett – Christmas Island.
- 1999, Reba McEntire – The Secret of Giving: A Christmas Collection.
- 2006, George Strait – Fresh Cut Christmas.
- 2008, George Strait - Classic Christmas.
- 2008, Bradley Joseph – Classic Christmas.
- 2009, The Airmen of Note – Cool Yule.
- 2009, Fariborz Lachini – Christmas Piano.
- 2013, Duncan Brannan and Jaret Reddick – Chuck E's Holiday Party.
- 2016, Pentatonix – A Pentatonix Christmas as "Up On The Housetop"