

Jingle Bells

START



DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW IN A ONE HORSE OPEN SLEIGH O'ER THE FIELDS WE GO



LAUGHING ALL THE WAY BELLS ON BOB TAILS RING MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT WHAT FUN



IT IS TO LAUGH AND SING A SLEIGHING SONG TONIGHT OH JINGLE BELLS JINGLE BELLS



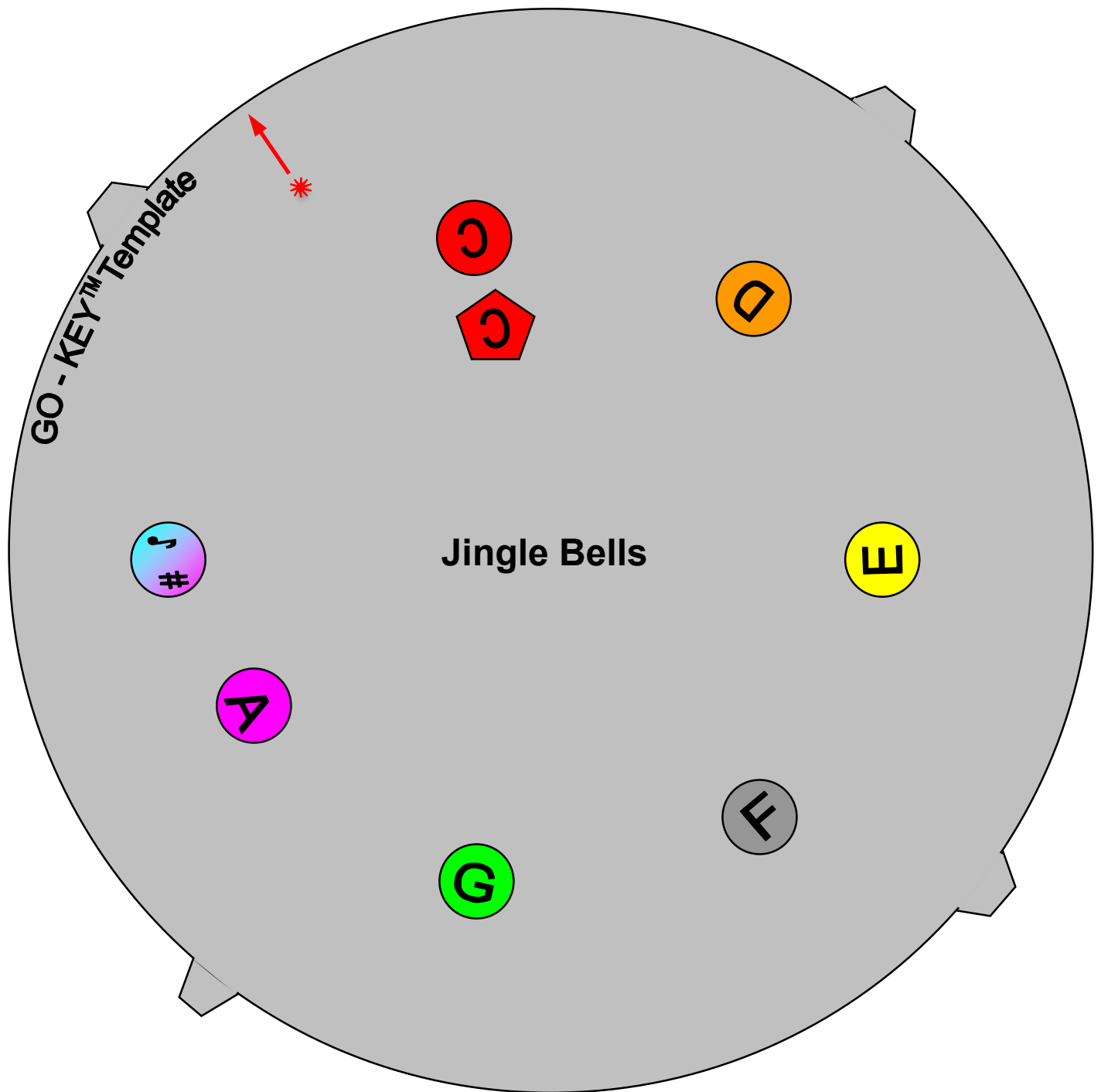
JINGLE ALL THE WAY OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE IN A ONE



END

HORSE OPEN SLEIGH

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History and Origin

Jingle Bells is one of the best-known and commonly sung American songs in the world. It was written by James Lord Pierpont (1822–1893) and published under the title "One Horse Open Sleigh" in the autumn of 1857. It has been claimed that it was originally written to be sung by a Sunday school choir; however, historians dispute this, stating that it was much too "racy" (and secular) to be sung by a children's church choir in the days it was written.

Although originally intended for the Thanksgiving season, and having no connection to Christmas, it became associated with Christmas music and the holiday season in general decades after it was first performed by blackface minstrel performer Johnny Pell in Ordway Hall in Boston in September 1857. Some area choirs adopted it as part of their repertoire in the 1860s and 1870s, and it was featured in a variety of parlor song and college anthologies in the 1880s. It was first recorded in 1889 on an Edison cylinder.