

Appendix 1

SOLFÈGE SYLLABLES

Standard syllables

Solfège is a system for sight-singing music that applies standard syllables to the notes. Singing with solfège syllables makes it easier to hear and remember the sound of intervals. The following syllables are common to most solfège systems in English-speaking countries:

C major scale:

The musical staff shows the notes of the C major scale: Do (1), Re (2), Mi (3), Fa (4), Sol (5), La (6), Ti (7), and Do (1). Below the staff, the syllables are written with their English pronunciations: ("doh"), ("ray"), ("mee"), ("fah"), ("soh"/"soul"), ("lah"), ("tee"), and ("doh") [or Si].

Chromatic syllables

Chromatic syllables use "-i" (said "ee") for the sharps and "-e" (said "ay") for the flats. Since Re already has an "e" on the end, it changes to Ra (said "rah").

The first staff shows a chromatic scale from Do to Do, using the syllables: Do, Di, Re, Ri, Mi, Fa, Fi, Sol, Si, La, Li, Ti, Do. The second staff shows another chromatic scale, likely from Do to Do, using the syllables: Do, Ti, Te, La, Le, Sol, Se, Fa, Mi, Me, Re, Ra, Do ("rah").

Fixed do versus moveable do

In the **fixed do** system, the pitch C is always Do. Fixed do systems may keep the same syllables for sharps and flats (F, F_b, and F[#] are all "Fa"). For major keys in the **moveable do** system, Do is always the first scale step (tonic). Moveable do systems use the chromatic syllables for accidentals.

G major scale:

The musical staff shows the notes of the G major scale: Do (1), Re (2), Mi (3), Fa (4), Sol (5), La (6), Ti (7), and Do (1). Below the staff, the syllables are written: Fixed do: Sol, La, Ti, Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol (or Si). Moveable do: Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, Do.

**Moveable do:
Do-based and la-
based minor**

There are two ways to sing **minor using moveable do: using Do** for the tonic or **using La** for the tonic. The different forms of minor sometimes require syllables for accidentals (in **bold** below). Remember: "me" is pronounced "may," "te" is pronounced "tay," etc.

G melodic minor scale:

A musical staff in G melodic minor. The notes are: 1 (C), 2 (D), 3 (E), 4 (F), 5 (G), 6 (A), 7 (B), 1 (C), 1 (C), 7 (B), 6 (A), 5 (G), 4 (F), 3 (E), 2 (D), 1 (C).

Do-based: Do Re **Me** Fa Sol La Ti Do Do Te Le Sol Fa Me Re Do

La-based: La Ti Do Re Mi **Fi Si** La La Sol Fa Mi Re Do Ti La

**Singing with
numbers**

Singing with scale degree (scale step) **numbers** from one to seven is another common system. Sometimes the number eight is used when the melody approaches the tonic from below.

G major:

A musical staff in G major. The notes are: 1 (C), 2 (D), 3 (E), 4 (F), 5 (G), 6 (A), 7 (B), 1 (C).

Scale steps: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1
(8)

Sample melody

The g minor melody below illustrates five syllable systems: (1) fixed do, no chromatic syllables; (2) fixed do, with chromatic syllables; (3) moveable do, la-based minor; (4) moveable do, do-based minor, and (5) numbers. Singing the letter names of the pitches is also possible. Since the music modulates, moveable do and numbers would change to d minor to continue.

Bach, Fugue 16 in G minor, BWV 861 from WTC, Book I

1: Re Mi Sol Fa Sol	La Ti Do Ti La Ti Sol
2: Re Me Sol Fi Sol	La Te Do Te La Te Sol
3: Mi Fa La Si La	Ti Do Re Do Ti Do La
4: Sol Le Do Ti Do	Re Me Fa Me Re Me Do
5: 5 6 1 7 1	2 3 4 3 2 3 1

1: La Sol Fa Sol La Ti Sol Mi Do Re
2: La Sol Fa Sol La Te Sol Mi Di Re
3: Ti La Sol La Ti Do La Fi Ri Mi (becomes La in d)
4: Re Do Te Do Re Me Do Li Fi Sol (becomes Do in d)
5: 2 3 7 1 2 3 1 6 4 5 (becomes 1 in d)