

1.20 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:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do
 ("doh") ("ray") ("mee") ("fah") ("soh"/ "soul") ("lah") ("tee") ("doh")
 [or Si]

Chromatic syllables use "-i" (said "ee") for the sharps and "-e" (said "ay") for the flats:

Do **Di** Re **Ri** Mi Fa **Fi** Sol **Si** La **Li** Ti 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 often keep the same syllables for sharps and flats (F, F \flat , and F \sharp are all "Fa").

In the *moveable do* system, *Do* is always the first scale step for major keys (*tonic*).

Moveable do systems use the chromatic syllables for accidentals given above.

G major scale:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1

Fixed do system: Sol La Ti Do Re Mi Fa Sol
 (or Si)

Moveable do system: Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do

Moveable Do: Do-based minor and La-based minor

There are two ways to sing minor using *moveable do*: starting on Do or La for the tonic.

The different forms of minor sometimes require syllables for accidentals (underlined below).

Remember, "me" is pronounced "*may*," "te" is pronounced "*tay*," etc.

G melodic minor scale:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 1 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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

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