

Solfa and Solfège Hand Signs

Solfa is a musical language that uses hand signs to show the notes. These signs show a major scale. The bottom *do* is at your tummy, and the high *do* is about at your eyes.

"Hand signs are a way of giving a physical placement for a vocal pitch. The low *do* begins at your midsection. Each pitch is then above the previous one. Thus, you have the hand signs going up when the pitch goes up. The upper *do* is at eye level." (<http://www.classicsforkids.com/teachers/training/handsigns.asp>)

When we do music dictation, we abbreviate the Solfa notes as follows:

d, r, m, f, s, l, t, d'

Notice that high *do* is indicated with the apostrophe ('). To write a song in Solfa, use only the abbreviations. To show a *do* that is below middle *do*, put a comma after it (*d,*). Here is the song "Mary Had a Little Lamb" in Solfa:

m r d r m m m
r r r
m s s
m r d r m m m m
r r m r d

Look at how we write the *sol* below *do* in the first line of "O, Christmas Tree:"

s, d d d r m m m

Notice how *ti* below *do*, in the last line, looks like this:

m r m f t, r d

At the top of our lyric/Solfa song pages, you'll see a line that shows which Solfa notes are used in that song. For example, for "Mary Had a Little Lamb," it would say, "*drms.*"

Many thanks to www.classicsforkids.com for sharing their hand signs visuals! (Written permission obtained.)

