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:

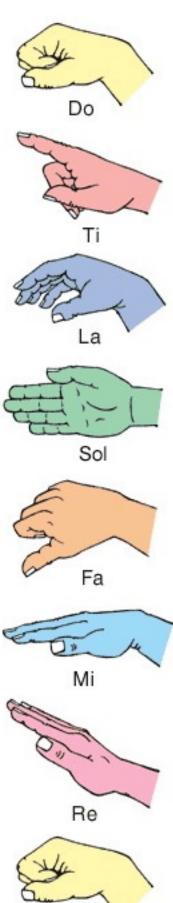
Notice that high *do* is indicated with the apostrophe ('). To write a song in Solfa, use only the abbreviations. To show a *do* that is below middle *do*, put a comma after it (*d*,). Here is the song "Mary Had a Little Lamb" in Solfa:

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

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

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 <u>www.classicsforkids.com</u> for sharing their hand signs visuals! (Written permission obtained.)



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