SOLFA NOTATION

Tonic Solfa is a pedagogical technique for teaching sight-singing, invented by Sarah Ann Glover (1785-1867) of Norwich, England and popularised by John Curwen who adapted it from a number of earlier musical systems. It uses a system of musical notation based on movable do solfège, whereby every tone is given a name according to its relationship with other tone in the key: the usual staff notation is replaced with anglicize solfège syllables (e.g. do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do) or their abbreviations (d, r, m, f, s, l, t, d). "Do" is chosen to be the tonic of whatever key is being used (thus the terminology 'movable do').

Notation

In Curwen's system, the notes of the major scale (of any key) are noted with the single letters d, r, m, f, s, l, and t. For notes above the principal octave, an apostrophe follows the letter. Notes below the principal octave have a subscript mark.

Chromatic alterations are marked by the following vowel, "e" for sharp (pronounced "ee") and "a" for flat (pronounced "aw"). Thus, the ascending and descending chromatic scale is noted:

d de r re m f fe s se l le t d'

d' t ta l la s sa f m ma r ra d

Such chromatic notes appear only as ornaments or as preparation for a modulation; once the music has modulated, then the names for the new key are used. The modulation itself is marked by superscript of the old note name preceding its new name. The music then proceeds in the new key until another modulation is notated.

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Igwuruta, Igwuruta-Ali, Omagwa, Isiokpo, Elele, Omudioga, Egbeda, Ubimini, Ikiri, Omoku.