

Solfa (interactive)

Flats b			Sharps #	
		VIII / I	Do'	
bVII Te	VII Ti		#VI Li	
bVI Le	VI La		#V Si	
bV Se	V So		#IV Fi	
		IV	Fa	
		III	Mi	
bIII Me			#II Ri	
bII Ra	II Re		#I Di	
		I	Do	

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"Solfa" or "Solfege" among many names, is a common music education method used to teach pitch and sight singing of Western music. Syllables are assigned to the notes of the scale and enable the musician to audiate, or mentally hear, the pitches of a piece of music which he or she is seeing for the first time and then to sing them aloud. There are two current ways of applying solfa:

1. Movable do, where the syllables are assigned to scale degrees ("do" is always the first degree of the major scale). This is the version used in The Intelligent Choir methodology.
2. Fixed do, where the syllables are always tied to specific pitches (e.g. "do" is always "C-natural").

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“Subdivisions” are very important in music, and must always be present either audible or silent. In VOPA, the basic subdivisions are covered by 5 different signs to let the singers know what subdivisions they should feel and highlight in their ostinatos. A groove consists of 3 elements:

1. Pulse
2. Subdivisions
3. Accents

The DNA-code of a groove = audible subdivisions. This tool for getting to know the basic subdivisions are conducted and shown by fingers:

1. 4 notes = di
2. 8 notes = di da
3. 16 notes = di gi da ga
4. 8 notes triplets = di ba da
5. 4 notes triplets = di-i da-a ba-a



“Basic steps” are defined as 4 different elementary ways of moving and feeling the music together in the choir, like a “musical GPS” to make it clear, where we are rhythmically in the music.

1. Basic step 0 = Pulse/Groove on the place
2. Basic step 1 = Afro step
3. Basic step 2 = Gospel step
4. Basic step 3 = Half Time step
5. Basic step 4 = Back Beat step



“Energize” is “Singing without pitch”. It’s a very powerful tool to keep the focus on everything else but the pitch (on every note). Very often in “Energize mode” the rhythm and groove get stronger, since the blend of rhythm, sound, and interpretation is in focus, and the pitch is kept out.





Drone

A “drone” is a sustained note, or tone-clusters – called drones. Audible subdivisions can be activated to give it a longer life and emphasizes the use of slightly repeated sounds.

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Create

“Create” means that you are going to:

1. Create a loop (take your time to develop it), that potentially can be copied by other singers later on. The line or part should not be a foreground melody.
2. If you are already singing a loop, “Create” means that you should continue with singing a loop, but slowly make a further development out of the current loop.

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Solo

A solo is an improvised melody sung by a single performer (or more), with or without lyrics. It should stand in the foreground and could consist the current pieces of storytelling.



End solo

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