



Creative Music Room

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Free Download Solfege With Me!

Description

This download will cover how I teach solfege in the classroom. Attached to this document are the Curwen hand signs that I use to teach solfege to my students. Your goal is to sing the solfege scale in various patterns, using only stepwise motion for the younger classes.

For the older students that you teach, guide them to follow your hand signs *without* singing. For middle school students, skip around from one interval to another, extending to the octaves above and below. I have detailed below what this exercise looks like, and broken it down by age/grade.

Preschool

I teach Solfege the very first week that my 2 year olds come to music class. I will use my Solfege Hello song and when it comes to the call-and-response section at the end, I say, "Do, do, do. Come with me and sing!" and I sing it again. *Please note that when I sing this first note to the class I am using the hand signs as I sing.* Once they have joined me on that first note, I will sing, "Re, re, re" and they will follow me (with hand signs). I will kindly ask those students who are not participating to join in, "Kari, you've got this, show me your hands!." Eventually, they all join in on the fun.

I continue guiding them until we sing the whole scale, which can take a few weeks. Once these little guys have success and feel good about how they are doing, I will stretch them a bit by singing, “Do, do, re,” and then “Do, re, mi.” At this point you are off and running. Routine is so important for this age, so don’t hesitate to sing the same hello every time you meet for the first few months of school. By the middle of the school year, I will introduce the octave.

Elementary

Elementary students will not have a problem following the hand signs and singing the solfege names of the scale. Depending on what grade you are teaching, you may find that the class will easily be able to sign without you guiding them with your voice. This is a skill that will need developing, but I am most impressed when my 3rd/4th grade students can sing the correct pitches following the hand signs only. Having said that, for that age group, I am careful to move in steps of three notes at a time (for example, **do, re, mi** or **mi, fa, sol** or **sol, la, ti** or even back and forth, **mi, fa, mi**).

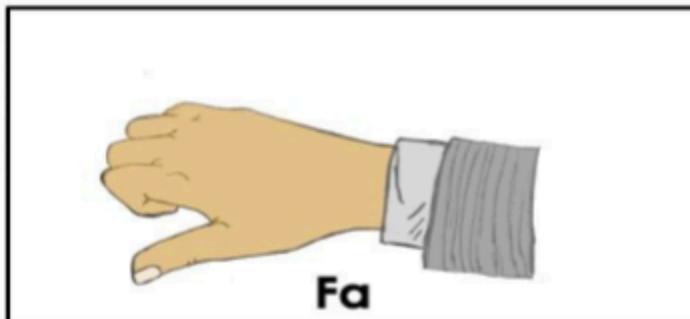
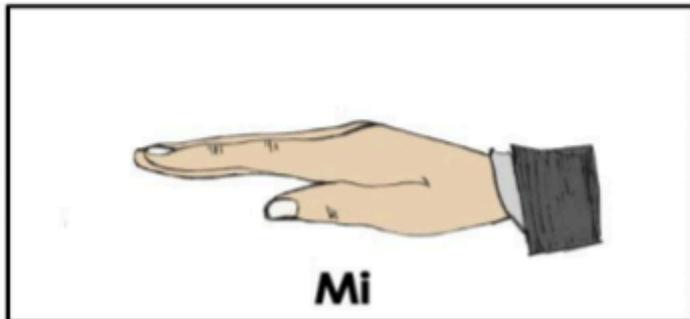
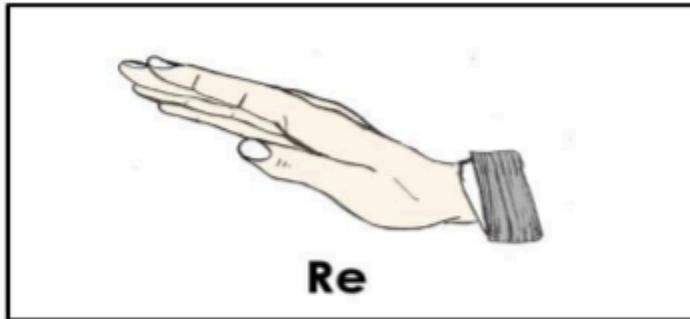
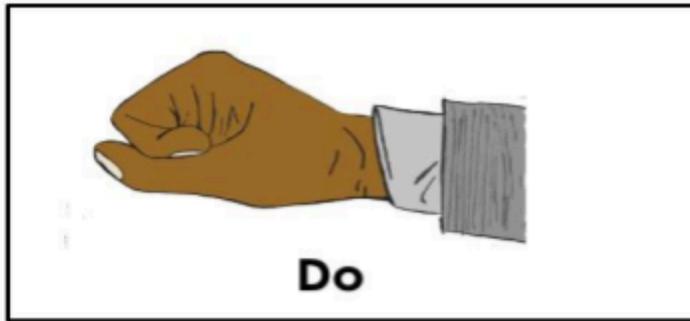
Late elementary to middle school

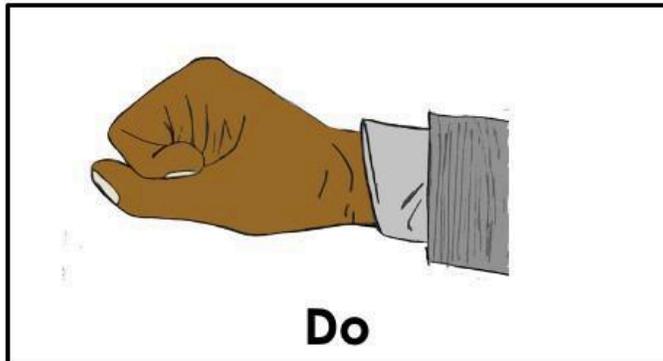
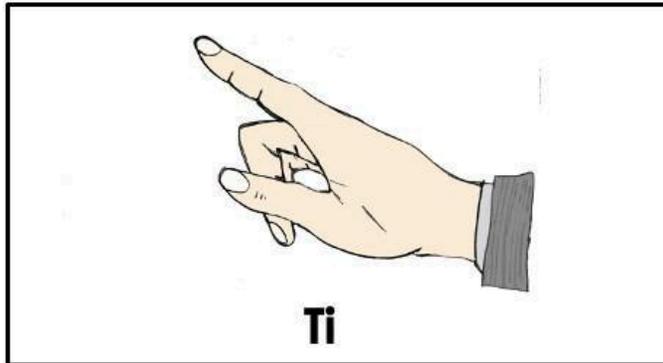
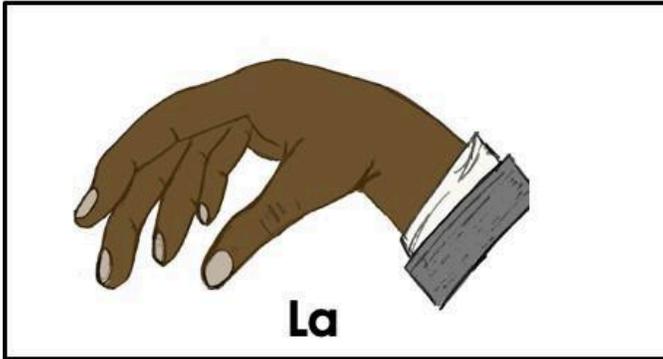
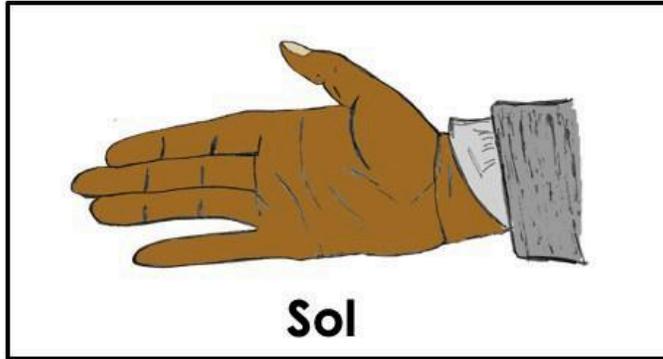
I don’t use a hello song to review the solfege scale with late elementary to middle school students. I just dive in singing solfege warm-ups with them. I have attached a couple of those warm-ups below. Once we have warmed up, I will divide the class in two. Standing in front of them, I will put both of my hands up and ask one half to follow one hand, and the other follow the other hand. We climb up and down in unison for a while, including steps and skips. At this stage of development, it may be best to stick with simple interval jumps of a third, **do, mi, sol, mi, do**. For the final segment, I tell the class to pay extra attention to my hands, and we climb up together with **do, re, mi**. However, at this point I repeat the **mi** several times, then

jump one hand down to **do** so that they are singing in harmony. I continue to move my hands up and down in thirds to show them different harmony options.

Angela's Advice: *I would practice this on your own before trying it out for the class. It can be a little challenging and the earlier they can achieve success with it, the more confident they will be, and the more productive the lesson will be for everyone!*

Angela





Do Do Re Do Do Re Mi Re Do

4

Do Re Mi Fa Mi Re Do Do RE Mi Fa

7

Sol Fa Me Re Do

Do Mi Sol Mi Do Re Do

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