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The Power of Solfege

Solfege is a system for assigning *functional* melodic-harmonic names to each of the twelve possible notes with respect to any tonal center. The note that acts as the tonal center is named **Do**, always. In other words, **Do** is the key that you are in. Once a tonal center **Do** is established, each of the twelve notes has a unique function that can be heard-felt as a certain "sound-feeling" with respect to this tonal center. The ability to recognize these functions does not require any special talent. We can all learn to recognize them with a little bit of knowledge and the right kind of practice. You will discover that **Do** will always sound-feel like **Do**, **So** will sound-feel like **So**, **La** will sound-feel like **La**, and so on... no matter what key you are in!

This ability to recognize the notes in a melody as *functional* entities rather than just arbitrary letter names is a huge advance in your musicianship, greatly expanding your musical comprehension and literacy. The investment of time and energy required to learn Solfege will pay back enormous dividends: in musical comprehension when you sight read, in aural comprehension when you play by ear, in "memorization" when you learn a new piece, and in your ability to transpose like a pro. Your knowledge of Solfege, appreciation of its importance, and your ability to apply it in practical playing situations will grow immensely as you use it to study scales, chords, chord progressions, improvisation, and transposition.

[learn more... Solfege Syllables in the Key of C](#)

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