

A Sidebar on Solmization

Renaissance musicians used six syllables, arranged in three hexachords:

Natural hexachord

ut re mi fa sol la

Hard hexachord

ut re mi fa sol la

Soft hexachord

ut re mi fa sol la

A flat in the key signature transposes the hexachords down a 5th (up a 4th)

Hard hexachord

ut re mi fa sol la

Natural hexachord

ut re mi fa sol la

Soft hexachord

ut re mi fa sol la

Example:

ut re mi fa sol mi la sol mi la sol fa mi sol ut re mi fa sol fa

mi ut sol fa mi re ut = sol fa mi re

↑
mutation (to natural hexachord)