

MiLa: an Audiovisual Instrument for Learning the Curwen Hand Signs

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The Curwen hand signs are used in music classrooms for sight-singing training. Students would follow along to melodies dictated with the hand signs.

Learning what pitch each sign stands for is neither easy nor fun, as until now it has been a rote learning process.

MiLa is an instrument controlled by these hand signs. Getting active auditory and visual feedback for making the postures will facilitate the link between the signs and the syllables.

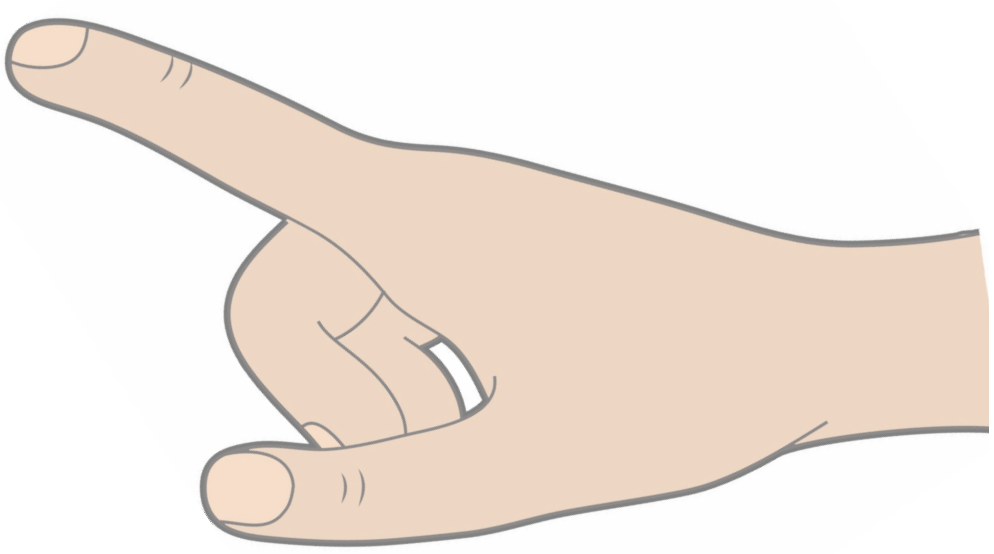
Example:
Mi is the “steady and calm” tone, and is represented by a hand pointing outward, palm downward.

“*I felt powerful.*”

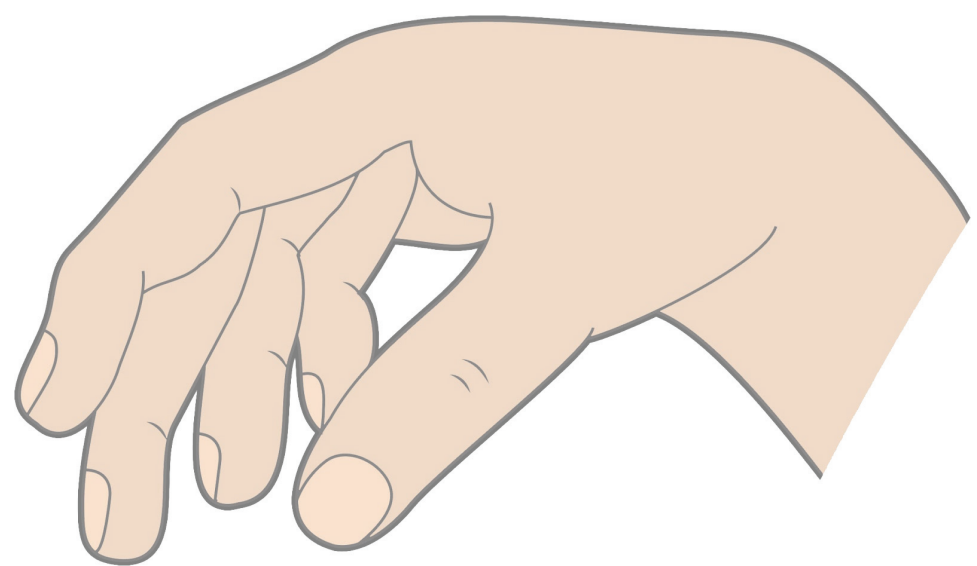
“*The visuals are soothing; they are almost therapeutic*”

-User study participants
(three male, two female total)

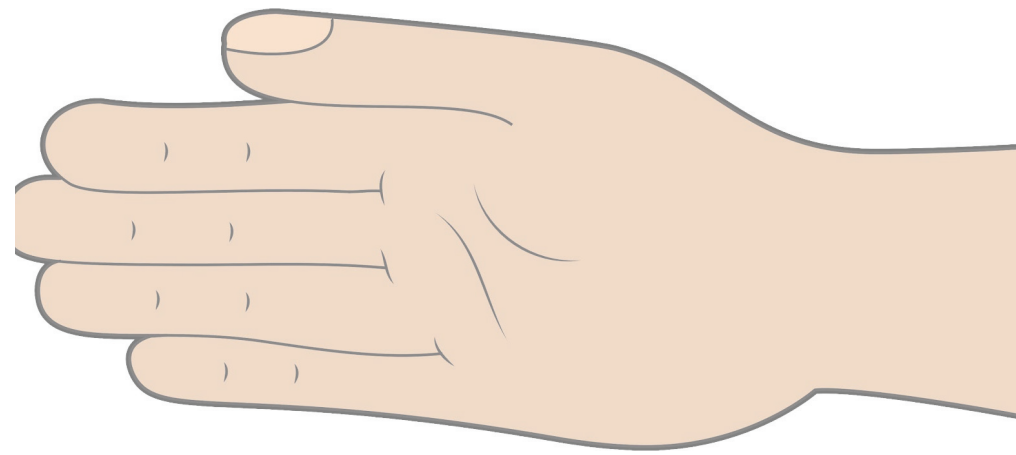
Ti
The piercing or sensitive tone



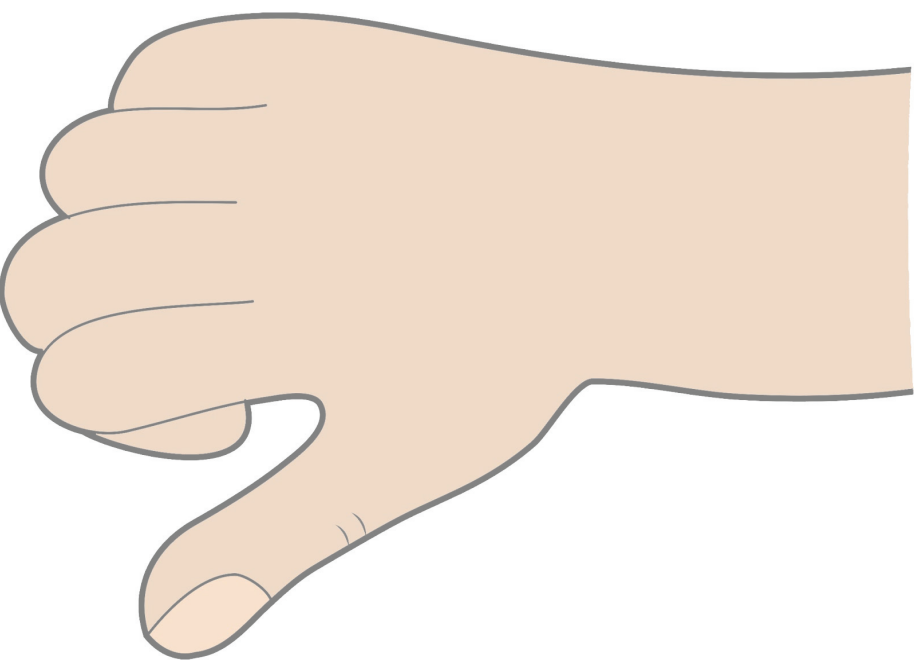
La
The sad or weeping tone



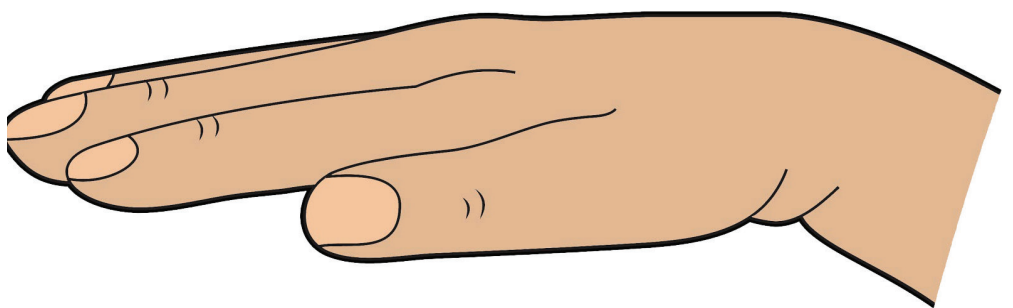
So
The grand or bright tone



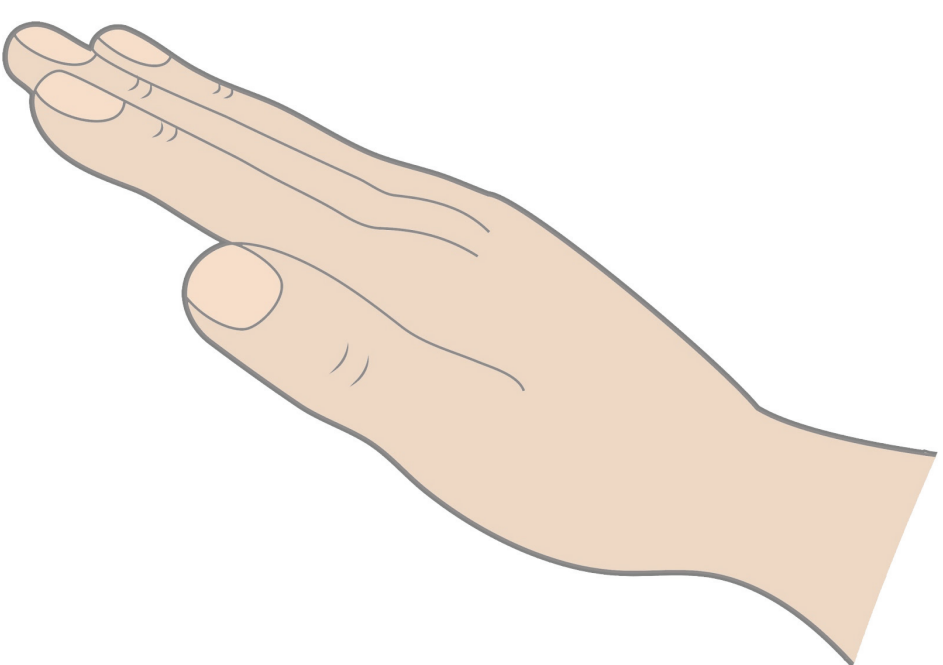
Fa
The desolate or awe-inspiring tone



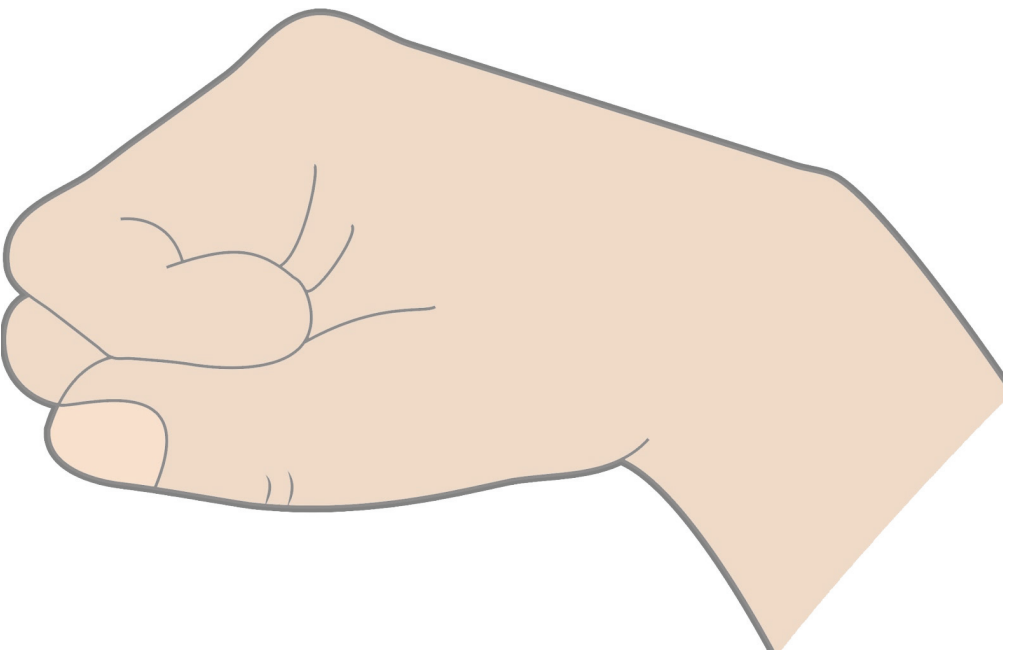
Mi
The steady or calm tone



Re
The rousing or hopeful tone

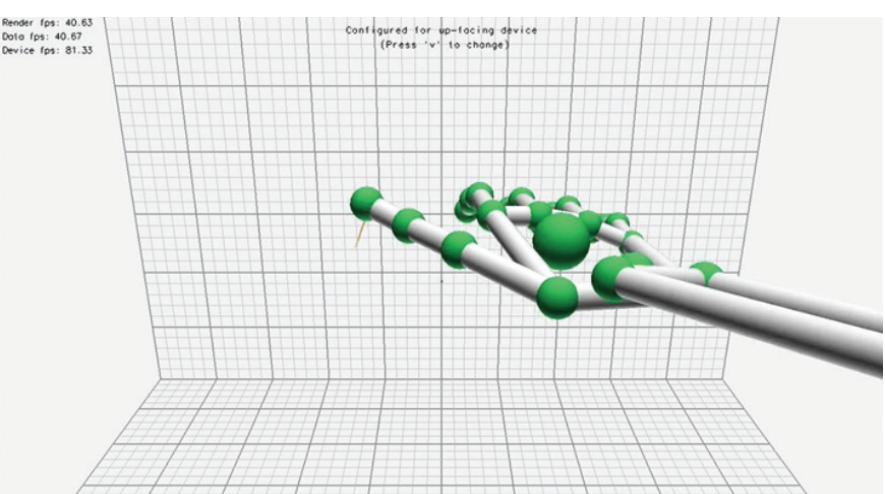
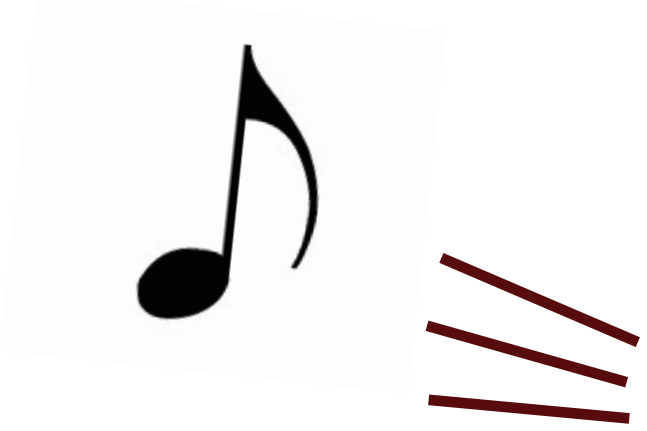


Do
The strong or firm tone



Once the Leap Motion sensor recognizes the hand sign as *mi*, the corresponding tone is played and a 3-D scenery displayed.

Mi is a flat but moving ocean.



Demo video

