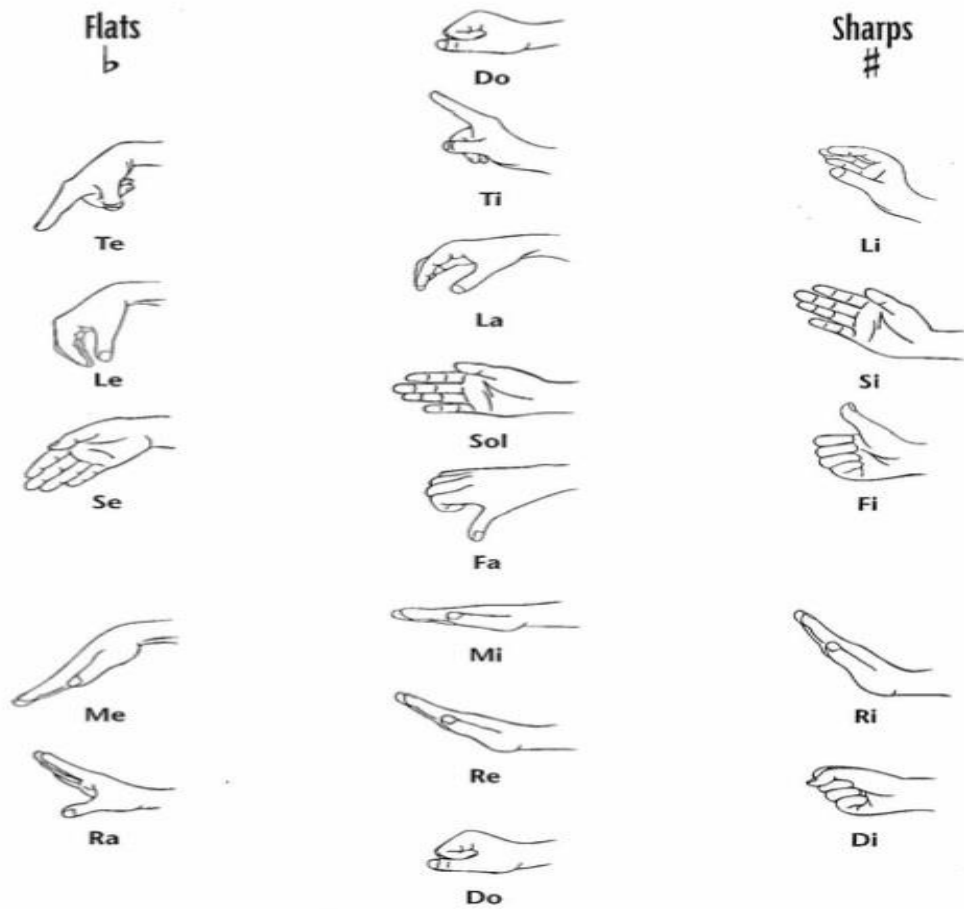


CURWEN HAND SIGNS

John Curwen (1816-1880), a British Minister and scholar of music, invented tonic sol-fa in the middle of the 19th century, and as part of his system he developed a number of **hand signs that represented the seven notes**. The idea was that the hand signals would help pupils learn sight singing by acting as **visual aids**. Later in the century, **Zoltán Kodaly (1882-1967)** adopted Curwen's hand signs in his system and amended them with a new set of his own gestures. Kodaly changed the orientation of the hand signs so that notes that were **flat would point downwards** and notes that were **sharp would point upwards**. Even though they didn't know about the different types of learners, Curwen and Kodaly created a solid method for teaching the notes and solfege (tonic sol-fa) to children that caters to visual, auditory, read-write, and kinesthetic learners alike.

The proper way to teach Curwen hand signs / Kodaly hand signs is to start by **signaling Do at waist level**. Then as you go up the scale, move your hand upwards, so that by the time you're at Ti, your hand is at **eye level**.



RHYTHM SYLLABLES

ta		ta-ah-ah	♪
ti-ti	⌏	ta-ah-ah-ah	♩
tri-o-la	⌏⌏	syn-co-pa	⌏ ⌏
tiri-tiri	⌏⌏	tai ti	. ⌏
tiri-ti	⌏⌏	ti tai	⌏ .
ti-tiri	⌏⌏	tim-ri	⌏⌏
ta-ah	♪	ri-tim	⌏.