SingLet™ for All

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Abstract

Numerous publications attribute absolute-pitch (AP) rarity to genetic predispositions, limited early AP training, and so on. While these factors are important, two aspects deserve more attention. One is the absence of effective AP systems. Existing letter-name systems run into multisyllabic chromatic names—hard to sing and bad for AP memory. The fixed-do system has solfèges with persistent pitch flexibility implanted by the movable-do system. The latter focuses on intervals, excellent for relative pitch (RP), but deters the shared solfège syllables from having fixed APs. Two is that AP's values are not realized yet when the number of connected AP possessors is almost negligible. This research focuses on generating a solmization system that is fast for automatic AP labelling and ready for AP curriculum developments. Hopefully, more AP possessors will emerge, allowing proper evaluation of its potential.

The *SingLet™ (Sing + Letter)* System reinvents the letter-name solmization by a phonetically optimized framework where every note has a legato-friendly monosyllable or SingLet that preserves letter-name and note-name identification, name-pitch uniqueness, and pitch-tier labelling, and additionally is easy to sing.

In SingLet, nature notes are A→/eɪ/, B→/bi/, C→/si/, D→/di/, E→/i/, F→/fi/, and G→/dʒi/. Note F gets rid of its alphabetic pronunciation of /ɛf/, two discrete phones, and obtains Fi™ /fi/, a CV. Ending vowel /i/ is unique to and almost uniform in natural SingLets, while the alphabetic A→/eɪ/ stays as an exception to avoid extra cognitive loading. Going to the accidentals, E variants are given a consonant onset "/j/" to have CV SingLets. The pitch class of A (A, A♯, A♭, A♯♯, A♭♭, etc.) is honored as the only class without consonant onsets. Therefore, each A–G pitch class has its unique consonant onset (or the absence of one). Each accidental type (sharp or flat, single, or double, and so on) has a distinctive rhyme. The rhyme of natural, sharp, and double sharp SingLets changes from /i/ to /ɑ/ and to /ɔ/; the rhyme of natural, flat, and double flat SingLets changes from /i/ to /ɛ/ and to /u/. In both directions, the vowels become progressively darker while the jaw opens up more and the tongue moves backward. Triple and quadruple accidentals append nasal codas to form SingLets.

The SingLet System is independent of the solfèges, eliminating interference from the solfège's pitch flexibility, and ready for AP curriculum developments. The two systems have complementary attributes for dual AP and RP agility.

Keywords

SingLet, Letter-Name solmization, solfège.