

# Where did DO-RE-MI come from?

The Hymn of the Office (Liturgy of the Hours) for St. John the Baptist.


The Benedictine monk Guido of Arezzo (11<sup>th</sup> century) noted that each phrase of the hymn begins on a successively higher note.

He used the syllables as a teaching aid for the notes of the scale: UT – RE – MI... *etc.*

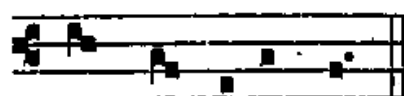
Later, UT was changed to DO in some languages (including English.)

Hymn. 2.  


 U T qué-ant láxis re-soná-re fíbris Mí- ra gestó-




rum fámu-li tu-ó-rum, Sól-ve pollú-ti lábi-i re-á-tum,




Sáncte Jo-ánes.



Ut quó-ant lá - xis (re)- so - na' - re fi' - bris



Mi - ra ge - sto - rum (fa) - mu - li tu - o' - rum



(Sol)' - ve pol - lu' - ti (lá) - bi - i re - a' - tum, San' - cte Jo - an' - nes.

**Ut** queant laxis                      resonare fibris,  
*So that with loosened cords (i.e. voices) [your servants] may resound*

**Mira** gestorum                      famuli tuorum,  
*the wonders of your deeds your servants,*

**Solve** polluti                      labii reatum,  
*cleanse the guilt from our stained lips,*

**Sancte** Ioannes.  
*O Saint John.*