

## Why Tonic Sol-fa

There are a number of reasons why tonic-solfa based scores and teaching resources are an appropriate focus for The Full Pitcher Music Resources:

- Tonic-sol-fa was developed to make music more accessible and has been used in many times and places to develop the musical skills of poor and uneducated people. Today, it is used to facilitate choral singing in parts of Africa, where instruments and music books are hard to come by but there is a long tonic sol-fa tradition, a legacy from the 19<sup>th</sup> century mission schools.
- It is a multi-sensory approach and suitable for pupils with different learning styles. It has been used successfully in teaching pupils of all levels of ability, including those with a range of special needs.
- It is a sure way to develop aural skills, an important area of music training in which, in our society, the vast majority of people are deprived. It is particularly relevant for people with physical disabilities. Performance is a challenging area for disabled musicians who, consequently, are often drawn even more strongly to composition. Unable to experiment freely in order to realise the sounds they hear in their imagination, they have a great need for aural training.
- A focus on the aural dimension leads naturally to creative exploration. Most teachers who adopt an aural approach also involve pupils in improvisation.
- tonic sol-fa can be applied to any key, so it has built in flexibility. It also makes it easier to learn many aspects of music theory.