

# Where Does Solfege Come From?

In 900 AD, Paulus Diaconus (a Lombard historian) wrote a hymn, honoring John the Baptist, called **Ut Queant Laxis**.

Look carefully at the first syllable of each line:

UT was later changed to DO

UT que - ant la - xis

RE - so - na - re fi - bris

MI - ra ge - sto - rum

FA - mu - li tu - o - rum

SOL - ve pol - lu - ti

LA - bi - i re - a - tum

Sanc - te Jo - an - nes

In 992 AD, Guido D' Arezzo, an Italian monk, noticed that **Ut Queant Laxis** contained the rising notes of the Major Scale. He began pointing out this fact to his fellow monks and soon the syllables UT RE MI FA SOL LA were used on a regular basis to indicate specific sounds.

In the Medieval Era, the sound that we now call TI\* was not used because it was considered evil!

During the Renaissance Era, it was accepted that TI\* was just an innocent sound, so it was added to the scale.

For the sake of beauty and ease of singing, UT was later changed to DO.

\*TI was known as SI until the 1930's when an English music teacher named Sarah Glover made the change so that every syllable began with a different letter