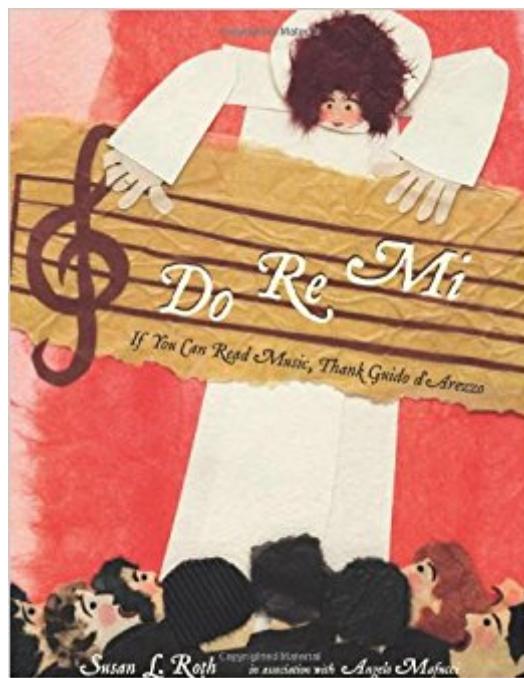


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# Do Re Mi: If You Can Read Music, Thank Guido D'Arezzo



## **Synopsis**

If you can read musical notes, you can sing any song or play any piece. But musical notes have not always been here. Long ago, songs were memorized. If songs were forgotten, they were lost forever. Thanks to one man, Guido d'Arezzo, music now can last forever.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 710 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #106,681 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History #9 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #14 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Kindergarten-Grade 5 "Working in the early 11th century, d'Arezzo is widely credited with having formulated the system of musical notation. This fictionalized picture book tells an abbreviated version of his story, following him from a boyhood in the choir to various monasteries to his eventual achievement. The emphasis is on his perseverance as he struggles to develop a system for "writing down the sounds of a song," and to convince the musical establishment of the benefits of being able to read, rather than memorize, music. The language is simple and intimate, fabricating conversations and thoughts that d'Arezzo and his medieval fellows real. The large-font text moves clearly across the cut- and torn-paper (and the occasional photo) collages that fill the spreads with wonderful colors and fibers. The slightly simplified forms lend a kind of cheery awkwardness and individuality to the characters. The stylized artwork ranges from close-ups to mini-frames to broad landscapes that subtly incorporate d'Arezzo's staff. While the narrative does a good job of explaining the significance of d'Arezzo's innovation, it sometimes oversimplifies matters and gives a

sense that he was flying completely solo rather than building on ideas already around. In the actual explication of his system, the glossary has to do the heavy lifting. The book's format is young, but much of its content-including an author's note-is aimed at an older audience with some musical background. This is an attractive if flawed introduction to a little-covered figure.â "Nancy Palmer, The Little School, Bellevue, WA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"A thousand years ago. . . . There was no written music at all." In this fictionalized biography, Roth introduces Guido d'Arezzo, the Italian monk who devised the first system of musical notation. In easy language, Roth first describes how, as a child, d'Arezzo came to think about writing down the sounds of a song. She then follows him into adulthood, when his experimentation with notation met with plenty of skepticism, even after he experienced an epiphany that led to the beginnings of the system that we use today. The words are basic, lyrical, and inspiring, but the paper-collage illustrations are less successful. Roth's wide-mouthed, almost cartoonish figures seem at odds with her elegant, layered backgrounds, which incorporate sheets of music, earthy textures, and images of beautifully patterned mosaic floors. Still, this is an appealing, accessible, and thought-provoking introduction to a rarely covered subject. A bibliography and an author's note conclude the volume.

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Every child who studies piano would love to have this book. A few years ago I bought it and gave it to a student who devoured it. The text is simple enough for young students but it doesn't talk down to them. The illustrations are top-notch and accompany the text perfectly. I bought this copy for my own library and will take it out from time to time to share with others -- children and adults. If I were still teaching I would give this book to all my students -- regardless of cost!

I love this book! I teach elementary music, and this book is perfect for introducing or discussing sol-fège and written notation. I honestly am not sure how much of it is accurate historically (there is a friend that the book mentions), but I know the basics are accurate. I read it to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade but I could see it as appropriate for older students if you approach it as history. The illustrations are interesting, and my students enjoy it. It encourages perseverance, believing in yourself, sticking by friends, etc.

As a music teacher, I found this story engaging for my students in grades 3-6, as a read aloud.

When kids ask, "Why do we need to learn music?", it's a good way to explain its origins, why it was important 1000 years ago, and why it is still important today. My colleague who teaches high school is borrowing it for her classes! It has nice illustrations of what notation looked like in Guido D'Arezzo's time~

I love having books about music that are ABOUT music. Do Re Mi puts the concept of notation in correct perspective - a way to write down symbols for sound so that they can be remembered and shared. One interesting angle is the universal frustration of having a great idea and it's not being accepted. Brother Guido's persistence pays off. This book is a great mixture of history and story with amazing collage art. I love having this in my music room library.

Charming and sweet with lovely artwork.

I really love this book! the art work is beautiful and the factual story of how music came to be written down is really interesting

Love, love, love this book. All of my students and friends love it too.

A richly illustrated story for older children about Guido d'Arezzo's musical notes. Marvelous art work.

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