

Le Port de voix

Le port de voix: the carrying of
the voice.

Lorsque le chant monte par degree conjoints, d'une note faible (D) à une note forte (E) pour se reposer sur la dernière de ces deux notes, on pratique souvent le Port de Voix; sur tout quand l'intervalle n'est que d'un demi-ton. On ne marque pas à tous les endroits où il faut le faire, le gout et l'expérience donnent cette connaissance.

When the melody rises by conjunct degrees, from a weak (*faible*) note (D) to a strong (*forte*) note (E), to settle on the last of these two notes, one often uses the *port de voix*; above all when the interval is only a semitone. One doesn't mark all the places where it must be done; taste and experience give that knowledge.

N.B. To move by conjunct degrees (*degrees conjoints*) is to move by step, from one note to the next, but with an extra sense of the notes being more joined than notes that leap (*degrees disjoints*).

Le Port de Voix se marque quelquefois, par un petite note postiche (F) qui luy sert de préparation et qui prend le nom de la note forte (G) à laquelle elle se lie, et sur laquelle il faut élèver la Voix. On le marque aussi par ce signe, V, (H). Le Port de Voix (I) est le renversement du coulé (K). Je crois que ce signe, /, seroit plus convenable que le signe, V, pour marquer le Port de Voix.

The *port de voix* is sometimes marked by a small, false (*postiche*), note (F) which serves as its preparation, and takes the name of the strong note (G) to which it is linked, and on which one must raise (*elever*) the voice. It is also marked by the sign: V (H).

N.B. *Postiche* means false or fake, something with no substance; in its most common sense *un postiche* is a toupee or a hair piece but it can also mean a decoration on clothing or soft furnishing.

The *port de voix* (I) is the reverse of the *coulé* (K). I believe that the sign / would be more appropriate than the sign V to mark the *port de voix*.

port de voix

[pitch: E F - F etc.]

N.B. For singers, *ut re mi fa so la si ut* name the degrees of the scale, in a similar manner to (movable-*do*) modern sol-fa, with *ut* the tonic. Additional accidentals are written in front of the name - #*fa*, b*mi* - but they are still sung as "fa" and "mi". For instrumentalists the names are unchanging; *ut* is always C.

In his *Leçons de musique divisées en quatre classes*... (c.1709) Montclair describes an extended system: *ut*, *tu* (= #*ut*), *bé* (bré), *ré* (with an accent), *ri* (#ré), *ma* (b*mi*), *mi*, *fa*, *ta* (#*fa*), *bol* (b*sol*), *sol*, *dol* (#*sol*), *lu* (bla), *la*, *li* (#*la*), *za* (bsi), *si*, *ut*. His table shows clearly that sharp notes are slightly lower than their respective flat note, for instance *tu* is positioned slightly below *bé*. This system was not repeated in either of his later treatises.

La Chûte

Chute: to fall

7

La Chûte est un inflexion de la voix qui apres avoir appuyé un Son pendant quelque tems (L) tombe doucement et comme en mourant sur un degré plus bas (M) sans s'y arrêter. Cet agrément se marque par un petit note (N).

The *Chûte* is an inflection of the voice which, after having sustained a note for a few beats (L), drops gently – as if it were dying – on to a lower note (M) without stopping there [without holding the lower note]. This ornament is shown by a small note (N). [There is no N in the table.]

La Chûte donne un grand agrément aux chants pathétiques.

The *Chûte* gives a beautiful ornament to sad songs. [See p9 for trills ending with a *chûte*.]

Accent

Accentuer: to emphasise

L'Accent est une aspiration ou elevation douloureuse de la voix, qui se pratique plus souvent dans les airs plaintifs que dans les airs tendres; il ne se fait jamais dans les airs gais, ni dans ceux qui expriment la Colere.

The *Accent* is an inhalation or a painful raising of the voice, which is more often used in plaintive airs than in tender airs (love songs). It is never used in happy airs, nor in those which express anger.

Il se forme dans la poitrine par une espece de sanglot, à l'extremité d'une note de longue durée, ou forte (O) en faisant un peu Sentir le degré immediatement au dessus de la note accentuée (P).

It is generated in the chest by a kind of sob, at the end of a long note, or a strong note (O) so that the note immediately above the note with the *accent* is heard a little.

L'Accent se marque quelquefois, par un petite note, ou par ce signe, '.

The *Accent* is sometimes shown by a little note or by this sign: '.