

FOR

Obtaining a perfect Knowledge

OFTHE

GREGORIAN NOTE.





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A short and easy Method of Learning the Church-Musick.

A S the Church has in all Ages look'd upon Singing as a powerful Attractive of the Faithful to divine Service, and a proper Incidement to Devotion : I thought itwou'd be agreeable and convenient, as well both to promote these falutary Ends, and to indulge the Defire the prefent Age expresses for it, to give a brief, easy and fure Method of learning the Church-Musick.

As it is impossible to make a Blind-man comprehend by Words, the difference of Colours; so it is in vain for any body to pretend to learn Mulick by Rules, if he has not previously either by the help of a Master, or of his own Observations upon some Musical Instrument, acquired a sufficient Idea of the differebt Sounds that occur therein. He may observe, for Example, that two Wires of equal Stiffnels and Thicknels, but of which one is double the other in length, produce the same Sound, with this only difference, that the first is flat or low, and the f-cond sharp or high: So that the one could without Confusion accompany or be substituted to the other. The fame is commonly observed when a Man and Woman fing the fame Song together. These two Sounds are call'd Octaves (in English eighths) to each other, because they include Six other different Sounds, which in all make eight: And as each of these six have their Octaves both higher and lower, and these have also theirs in infinitum (it is rare to find a humane Voice exceed two Octaves or fifteen Notes) all the Art of Mulick must confist in the Knowledge of seven only Sounds: For the rest are but Repetitions of the same. (See Numb. 1.) These Sounds have the arbitrary Appellations of ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la, si, from the initial Syllables of some Words of the first Strophe of St. John the Baptis Hymn, and also of c, d, e, f. g, a, b, which correspond tə tə

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to the former, and in the order they fland are alcending, but in descending it is inverted as fi, la, fol, &c. (See Numb. 1.)

These Names have as many Notes or Characters which answer them; (see Numb. 6.) and as they are not diffinguished from each other by any difference in their Shape and Figure, 2 Keys (other Musicians have 3. tho' they play out of 7.) always placed at the Beginning of some of the four Lines commonly used in this Mußick, were invented for that Purpole, one of which is called that of c or ut (See Numb. 4.) and the other that of for fa, (see Numb 5.) and show that all the Notes which are on their Lines have their Names and Sounds, and the rest theirs according to their Situation, (this is either on or beside the Lines,) below or above the same Keys. But this is to be underflood when the Musick is in b fnarp, (whofe Mark see Numb. 7.) which always happens when there is no b flat, either immediately (see Numb. 8.) under the Key of ut (that of fa feldem or never has any fuch) in which Case the Singing continues flat if not interrupted by 6 sharp, or otherwife; for then all the Notes that fland in its Degree, or upon fa (where it regularly is) have the Name and Sound of fa; ut, that of soi; re that cf la; mi that of si; fa that of ut; sol that of re; and la that of mi; wherefore in order to retain all these changes, this Scheme (see Numb. 2) was devised, which they call Gamut, where you see the Letters of the Alphabet have each of them two Names and two Sounds; the first those of b flat, and the second those of b sharp. Note that if the b flat is not immediately under the Key, but elsewhere, it only affects the fis that imme-

diately follow it, not others; and this is the molt intricate fort of finging, because it moves from b sharp to b flat, and returns again to b sharp; for all changes are attended with fresh Difficulties (see Numb. 11.) The Notes differ not only as to their Sounds or Tones, but also in their Time, for in Singing some Notes take up more Time than others: And tho' these Differences

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be innumerable, yet as to Time, a full Note madé like a Square, (see Numb. 9.) whole Time is arbitrary, and a half Note cut like a Diamond (see Numb. 10.) which requires but half the Time of the former, are only made use of. These are chiefly adapted to the short and long Syllables in the Quantity of Words, and as to the Sone, we make use only of a full Tone, which expresses fo plain a D'fference between one Note and another joining it, that a third Sound different from either (called a half Tone) could be eafily distinguish d betwixt thèm; and this difference is found in any two following Notes of the Octave except mi, fa, and fa, ut, whose Tones are scarcely distinguished but by fuch as are somewhat versed in Musick. Phese Rules well understood, with a little Practice, will make a perfect Musician: For in knowing the Names and Tones of the Notes one after another, it will be an easy Matter, by retaining their Ideas and emissing the Middl most, to sing any two of them at any Dislance. Where there is but one past over, (see Numb. 14, Ec.) they are called Tercets or Thirds, where two fourths, where three fifths, where four fixths, where fix eighths (levenths are not regarded) of all these the greates Stides commonly met with in Pr: Aice are fifths; in like man. ner i: will not be at all difficult to substitute any other 'Syllables to their proper Names, (see Numb. 12) ut, re, mi, fa, and so fing any Words on them, in which two Points, confilts the greatest difficulty of Singing. It muss be observed that when there are several Notes to one Syllable they are nearer to each other than to those of another Syllable: So that care must be taken (to avoid Confusion) that every Note be fung with its own Syllable, and not with another, (see Numb. 13.) Moreover, at the End of each Line, there is a Mark (see Numb. 4 and 5.) that shows with what Note the following Line begins. In Singing, Notice also is to be taken of the final, or of that which ends what is fung, and of the pre-A 4 dominant

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dominant or reigning Note, which is most commonly repeated; for thereby you distinguish, which of the eight Airs or Tunes the Church uses, is sung, stress of the Numb. 3.) but for regulating your Pitch nothing can do but Practice and good forecast, the Ballad Singers hit pretty exactly that of a Quire.

e Final reigning
I $re,$ $la,$ 2 $re,$ $fa,$ 3 $mi,$ $ut,$ 4 $mi,$ $la,$ 5 $fa,$ $ut,$ 6 $fa,$ $la,$ 7 $fol,$ $re,$ 8 $fol,$ $wt,$



(° 9) TERCETS.

34.













Fa, ut, Sol, re. Re. sol, ut, fa, re, la, La, re, sol, ut.

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1 (. 12) SIXTHS.





EIGHTHS





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Method of Singing of the Pfalms.

Blerve as to the Pfalms, that as they have feveral Terminations you must make use of the final. Note of the foregoing Antiphons and their own Dominant (this is discovered by that which answers to the first of these vowels e uou ae, taken from *sæculorum Amen.*) to learn their Tones according to Numb. 3. The first Column of the following Table shows the 8 Tones. The 2.1 and 3d show, (to reckon the Syllables from the Middle or End of any Verse backward) with what Syllable the dominant Note begins to change in double Feafts. Tone Middle End. But if the last word of the middle 2 of any Verse of the 2d, 4th, 5th, 2 3 2 or 8th, Tones be a Monofyllable 3 4 4 5 or indeclinable, instead of the 4 4 5 6 last but one, it is the last Sylla-4 2 ble that rifes. Example of the 2d 2 4 7 8 Tone. 4 4

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Si on, ex au di me, Da vid, jeru sa lem. And if any of these Syllables happens to be short, join it to the following, making as it were but



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but one of both; and change one Syllable fooner for as many short ones as you have, and in that confifts the Art of Plalm-Singing.



With its Conclusions.





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The THIRD TONE. Dix it Dominus Domino meo: sede

j, j

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à dex-









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Dixit Dominus Domino me o.

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Ma gni- fi cat.

The



(20) The TONING of the EIGHTH IRREGULAR TONE.



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Of the VERSE BENEDICAMUS. At the first Vespers of double Feasts.





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In

(21): In double Feasts of the first Class.





o mino.

- a ti as.
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V. Benedica- mus Do-R. De- o gra-



- a tias.

On Feasts of the B. Virgin.



21 In the Office for the Dead. <u>ار او ا</u> V. Requi ef cant in pace. R. Amen. When the Alleluia is added to the Antiphons in Paschal Time, it is thus sung throughout the 8 Tones. & 4. Tones:



FINIS.

Laus Deo, Virginique Matri.





5 PSAL Cxlix Cantale Doming, Canticum no viem. Laus ejus in Ealesia Sanctorum.



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