



Conversational Solfege Supplement

(Last updated: September 13, 2021)

In the summer of 2020, GIA Publications, in collaboration with the Feierabend Association for Music Education (FAME), revised the *First Steps in Music* curriculum to remove all songs with racist histories and/or those that were otherwise deemed to be harmful, derogatory, or disrespectful, therefore making them unfit for use with children.

In the coming months, GIA Publications will be similarly reviewing and revising the *Conversational Solfege* curriculum (Levels 1–3) to remove any racist, derogatory, and/or problematic repertoire. While a revision of this nature will take several months to complete, this document lists the songs that will be removed from the curriculum in future printings.

We are providing this information now so that teachers may make informed decisions about the repertoire they use with their students. Fortunately, the majority of songs in the curriculum will remain, giving teachers plenty of musically rich and pedagogically appropriate songs from which to choose for each unit.

We further recognize that our understanding of folk repertoire is constantly evolving, and we continue to research the histories and contexts of these songs to determine their appropriateness for inclusion in the curriculum. The contents of this document are subject to change as we learn more, and we will provide updates as necessary.

Songs to Be Removed

Conversational Solfege Level 1

Juba	Unit 1	Used in minstrelsy.
Mother May I Go Out?	Unit 4	Used in minstrelsy.
'Possum Up a Gum Tree	Unit 4	Used in minstrelsy.

Conversational Solfege Level 2

Camptown Races	Unit 10	Written by minstrel composer Stephen Foster and used in minstrel performance; dialect is deliberately intended to mock Black speech patterns.
Jim Along Josie	Unit 5	Written by minstrel composer Edward Harper and used in minstrel performance; original lyrics contain racial slurs and allusions.
Juba	Unit 11	Used in minstrelsy.
My Dog Blue	Unit 7	Used in minstrelsy.
No One's in the House	Unit 5	The term "Dinah" was used as an unflattering and offensive caricature of an African American woman.
Old Aunt Dinah	Unit 5	The term "Dinah" was used as an unflattering and offensive caricature of an African American woman.

One Wide River	Unit 13	Used in minstrelsy. Variants contain dialect intended to mock Black speech patterns.
'Possum Up a Gum Tree	Unit 6	Used in minstrelsy.
Shortnin' Bread	Unit 10	Variants contain racial slurs; derogatory toward African Americans.
Sweetest Little Baby	Units 5, 6	Text uses the offensive "Mammy" caricature.
Three Fishermen	Unit 11	Early variants are explicitly derogatory towards the Jewish faith.
Workin' on the Railroad	Unit 11	Associated with minstrelsy. Variants contain offensive racial slurs and the "Dinah" trope (<i>see above</i>).

Conversational Solfege Level 3

CAFFEE (<i>see also</i> Coffee Canon)	Unit 22	Derogatory towards Muslims and Turks.
Chicken on a Fence Post	Unit 14	Variants contain racial slurs derogatory toward African Americans.
Christopher Columbus	Unit 25	Romanticizes the Columbus expedition, which led to the genocide and enslavement of Indigenous populations in the Americas.
Coffee Canon (<i>see also</i> CAFFEE)	Unit 15	Derogatory towards Muslims and Turks.
Jim Along Josie	Units 14, 16	Written by minstrel composer Edward Harper and used in minstrel performance; original lyrics contain racial slurs and allusions.
No One's in the House	Unit 14	The term "Dinah" was used in minstrel performances as an unflattering and offensive caricature of an African American woman.
Taffy Was a Welshman	Unit 14	Derogatory towards the Welsh.