

# The Eight Tones of the Psalms.

*The first verse of a psalm is always intoned by the Cantor with the formula of intonation proper to each tone. The verses following begin on the dominant. This rule is applied even to the psalms (or divisions of psalms) which are sung under one Antiphon, provided that each ends with the doxology Glória Patri.*

## First Tone.

Mediant of 2 accents.

Endings of 1 accent with 2 preparatory syllables. (In the ending D<sup>2</sup>, the additional note of the dactylic cadence is anticipated with the accented syllable and precedes the clivis).

The diagram illustrates the intonation and endings for the First Tone of the Psalms. It is divided into two main sections: Intonation and Endings.

**Intonation:** A single staff shows the intonation formula for the First Tone, divided into four parts: Int. (Intonation), Tenor and Flex (1) (Tenor and Flexion), Mediant (Mediant), and Tenor (Tenor). The Tenor and Flex (1) section is marked with a dagger (†) and the Mediant section with an asterisk (\*).

**Endings:** A vertical column of ten staves shows the endings for the First Tone, labeled D, D, D<sup>2</sup>, f, g, g<sup>2</sup>, g<sup>3</sup>, a, a<sup>2</sup>, and a<sup>3</sup>. Each ending is shown with a staff of music and a clivis (a downward-pointing line) indicating the cadence. The endings are grouped under the heading "Endings".

(1) The flex is made by lowering the voice a second or a third, according to the tone, on the last syllable before the sign † or on the last syllable but one if this syllable is not accented. However, a different interpretation is allowed. The inflexion of the voice may be replaced by a simple prolongation of the dominant (tenor) and a slight pause. These rules are applied also to monosyllables and Hebrew words. (S. C. of Rites, July 8th and Dec. 12th 1912).

## Second Tone.

Mediant of 1 accent. Ending of 1 accent with 1 preparatory syllable.

Int.      Tenor and Flex      Mediant<sup>1</sup>      Tenor      Sole ending.

or :

## Third Tone.

Mediant of 2 accents (the additional note of the dactylic cadence is anticipated with the accented syllable and precedes the clivis).

Ending of 1 accent with 1 preparatory syllable, a, b, — with 2 preparatory syllables, a<sup>2</sup>, g, — with 3 preparatory syllables, g<sup>2</sup>.

Int.      Tenor and Flex      Mediant      Tenor

Endings

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, dated July 8th 1912, if a monosyllable or a Hebrew word occur in the Lessons or Versicles, or at the mediant of the psalms, it is permissible to modify the ending (B), or to keep the ordinary modulation (A).

### Fourth Tone.

Mediant of 1 accent with 2 preparatory syllables.

Endings of 1 accent with 3 preparatory syllables. (In the Termination E, the additional note of the dactylic cadence is anticipated with the accented syllable and precedes the clivis.)

Int. Tenor and Flex Mediant Tenor

Endings

Another position of the same tone.

Endings

### Fifth Tone.

Mediant of 1 accent.

Ending of 2 accents.

Int. Tenor and Flex Mediant Tenor Sole ending.

### Sixth Tone.

Mediant of 2 accents — or of 1 accent with 1 preparatory syllable.

Ending of 1 accent with 2 preparatory syllables.

Int. Tenor and Flex Mediant

*Another formula.*

Int. Tenor and Flex Mediant

or :

B

Tenor Sole ending

### Seventh Tone.

Mediant of 2 accents. Endings of 2 accents.

Int. Tenor and Flex Mediant Tenor

Endings

## Eighth Tone.

Mediant of 1 accent.      Endings of 1 accent with 2 preparatory syllables.

Int.      Tenor and Flex      A      Mediant      Tenor

or:      B

## The « Peregrinus » Tone. <sup>1</sup>

Mediant of 1 accent with 3 preparatory syllables, — or with 2 preparatory syllables.

Ending of 1 accent with 1 preparatory syllable.

Int.      Tenor and Flex      Mediant      Tenor      Sole ending.

*Another formula.*

Int.

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the authorisation granted by Rome, a *sol* may be added *ad libitum* before the *si* at the mediant of the *Peregrinus* tone. Owing to this slight change, this formula becomes regular and is of 1 accent with 3 preparatory syllables.