CIPHER NOTATION

Cipher notation (or numbered musical notation) uses the numerals 1 through 7 to indicate the scale degrees ('musical notes') of the heptatonic (7-note) 'major' scale (numbers 1-7 correlate to solfege syllables *do re mi fa sol la ti*).

1	.	2	.	3	4	.	5	.	6	.	7	1
do	.	re	.	mi	fa	.	sol	.	la	.	ti	do

'1' represents the root of the scale rather than a specific fixed pitch (e.g., F# or C or whatever). Thus, all the intervals of the scale are measured relative to that root (the same as "moveable DO" soflege).
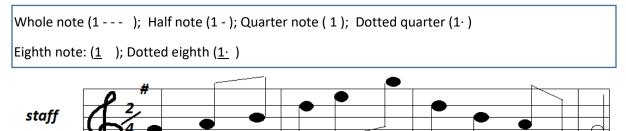
Octaves: A dot above a musical note raises it to a higher octave, while a dot below a note lowers it by an octave. For example, "6" with a dot below is at an octave lower than "6". Musical scales can thus be written as follows:

Major scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1̇   Natural minor scale: 6̣ 7̣ 1 2 3 4 5 6

Note Length: The plain number represents a quarter note. Each underline halves the note length: one line represents an eighth note, two lines represent a sixteenth note, and so on. Dashes after a note lengthen it, with each dash extending the length by a quarter note.

A dot after the plain or underlined note increases its length by half, and two dots by three quarters (similar to a dotted note in Western notation).

The underline, along with its joining, are analogous to the number of flags and beaming in standard notation. So are dotted notes. But the analogue stops at notes worth 3 quarter notes and beyond, where dashes are used instead.

Whole note (1 - - -); Half note (1 -); Quarter note (1); Dotted quarter (1·)

Eighth note: (1   ); Dotted eighth (1·)

staff										
cipher	1	2	3	5	6	1̇	5	3	2	7	1 —
solfege	do	re	mi	so	la	do	so	mi	re	ti	do

CIPHER NOTATION: SONGS

1. Old MacDonald Had a Farm:

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1 1 1 5̣ | 6̣ 6̣ 5̣ - | 3 3 2 2 | 1 - - 5̣ |
1 1 1 5̣ | 6̣ 6̣ 5̣ - | 3 3 2 2 | 1 - - 5̣5̣ |
1 1 1 - | 1 1 1 - | 11 1 11 1 | 11 11 1 1 |
1 1 1 5̣ | 6̣ 6̣ 5̣ - | 3 3 2 2 | 1 - - - |
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2. Sukiyaki

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- 1 1 2 | 3 1 6̣ 5̣ | - 1 1 2 | 3 1 6̣ 5̣ |
- 1 1 2 | 3 - 3 5 | 6 - 6 5 | 6 5 3 2 |
- 1 1 6̣ | 2 - - - | 2 - 2 1 | 3 - - - |
1 1 - 6̣ | 5 3 1 6̣ | 1 - - - |
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3. Arirang (in 3/4)

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5̣· 6̣ 5̣6̣ | 1· 2 12 | 3 2 3 16̣ | 5̣· 6̣ 5̣ |
1· 2 12 | 32 16̣ 5̣6̣ | 1· 2 1 | 1 - - |
5 - 5 | 5 3 2 | 3 23 16̣ | 5̣· 6̣ 5̣ |
1· 2 12 | 32 16̣ 5̣6̣ | 1· 2 1 | 1 - - |
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4. This Train is Bound for Glory

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1 1 1 3 1 6̣ 5̣ | 1 1·- - |
3 3 5 6 5 3 5 | 5 5·- - |
5 5 5 6 5 3 2 | 1 11 1 11 33 1 6̣ 5̣ |
1 1 3 2 1 6̣ 5̣ | 1 1·- - |
```