

La Chûte

The *chûte* has a connotation of 'to fall', and it is an ornament that falls gently after having sustained a note for a few beats. It is an ornament only mentioned in Montéclair's treatise⁴⁶ and he described this falling similar to dying from an upper note to a lower note, but without stopping after singing the lower note, meaning the music goes on without holding back. Montéclair illustrated the usage of the *chûte* with a small note, N, as shown in Figure 21.

La Chûte.

La Chûte est une inflexion de la voix qui après 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 une petite note N.

fa-a fa-a ut mi-i la la-a mi so ol ut re re ut re-c.

Figure 22: Montéclair's description of *La Chûte* (Montéclair 1736, p. 79)

Montéclair added that the *chûte* was a great ornament in sad songs (*chants pathétiques*). The *chûte* is another ornament that was given a character like the *coulé* and the *accent* by Montéclair.

⁴⁶ Montéclair 1736, p. 79.