Just Tuning Exercises

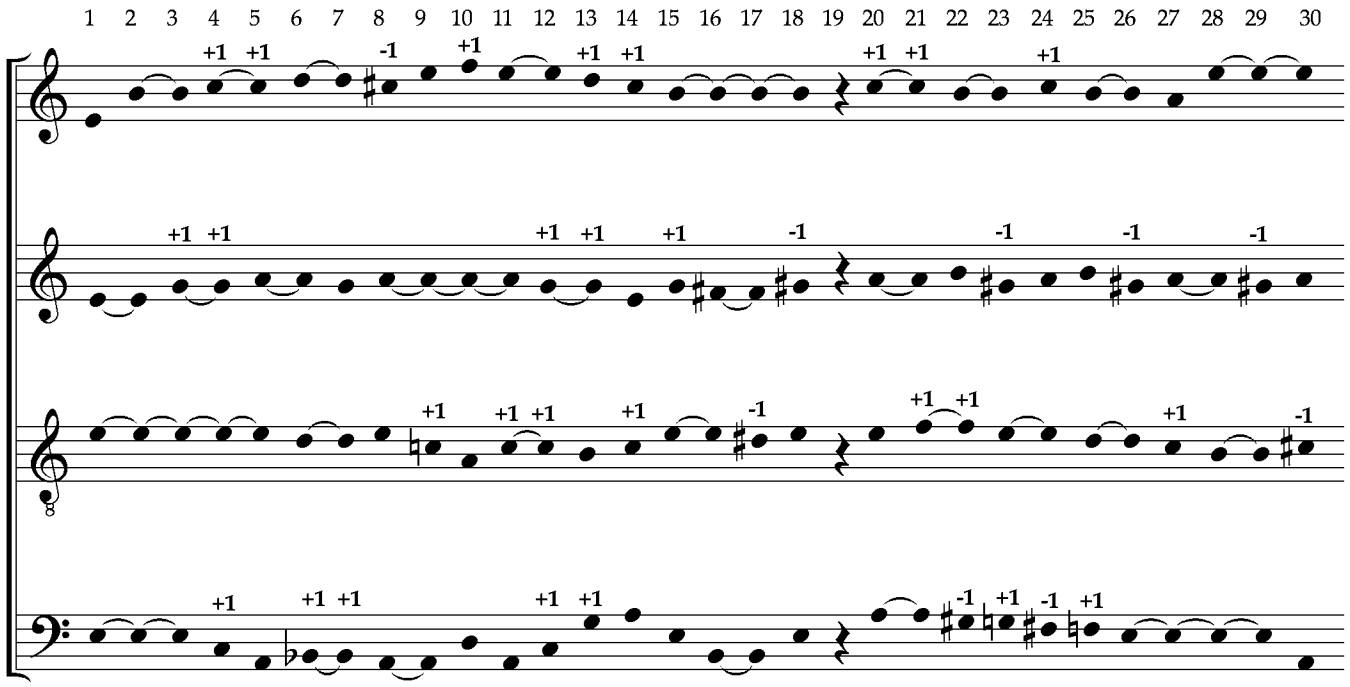
by Ross W. Duffin

These five exercises were devised to help ensemble performers explore the harmonic and melodic requirements of singing or playing in Just intonation. They were composed originally in the year 2000 for the use of the Early Music Singers at Case Western Reserve University.

The numbers represent increments of a syntonic comma, or 21.51 cents (about a fifth of a semitone). Notes without any annotation on the score are at 0, corresponding to the tuning of the note in the Pythagorean system; the other annotations as marked indicate adjustment up or down by comma. Among the most common intervals in Just intonation, pure octaves, fifths, fourths, and major tones share the same annotation; pure major thirds, major sixths, and minor tones are one comma narrow; pure minor thirds and minor sixths are one comma wide. For further information on the background to these exercises, see my online article, "Just Intonation in Renaissance Theory and Practice."

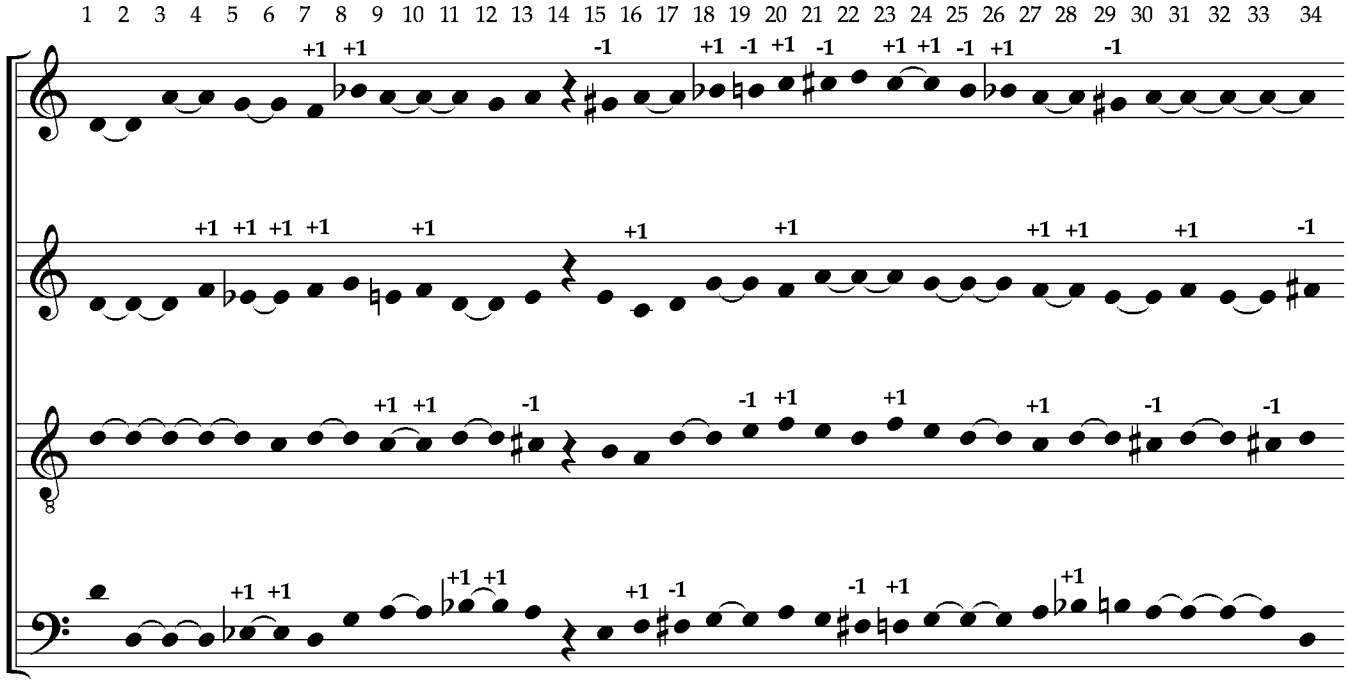
Just Tuning Exercise: A/E Modes

Ross W. Duffin (2000)



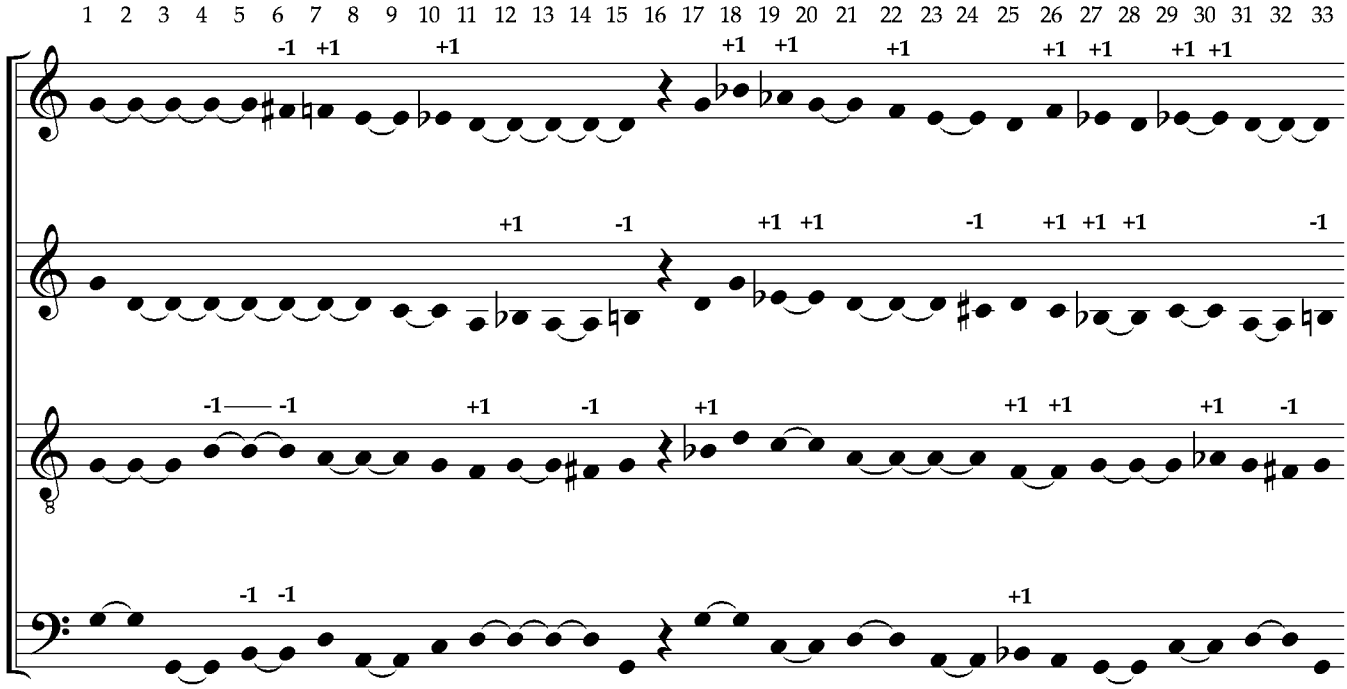
Just Tuning Exercise: D Mode

Ross W. Duffin (2000)



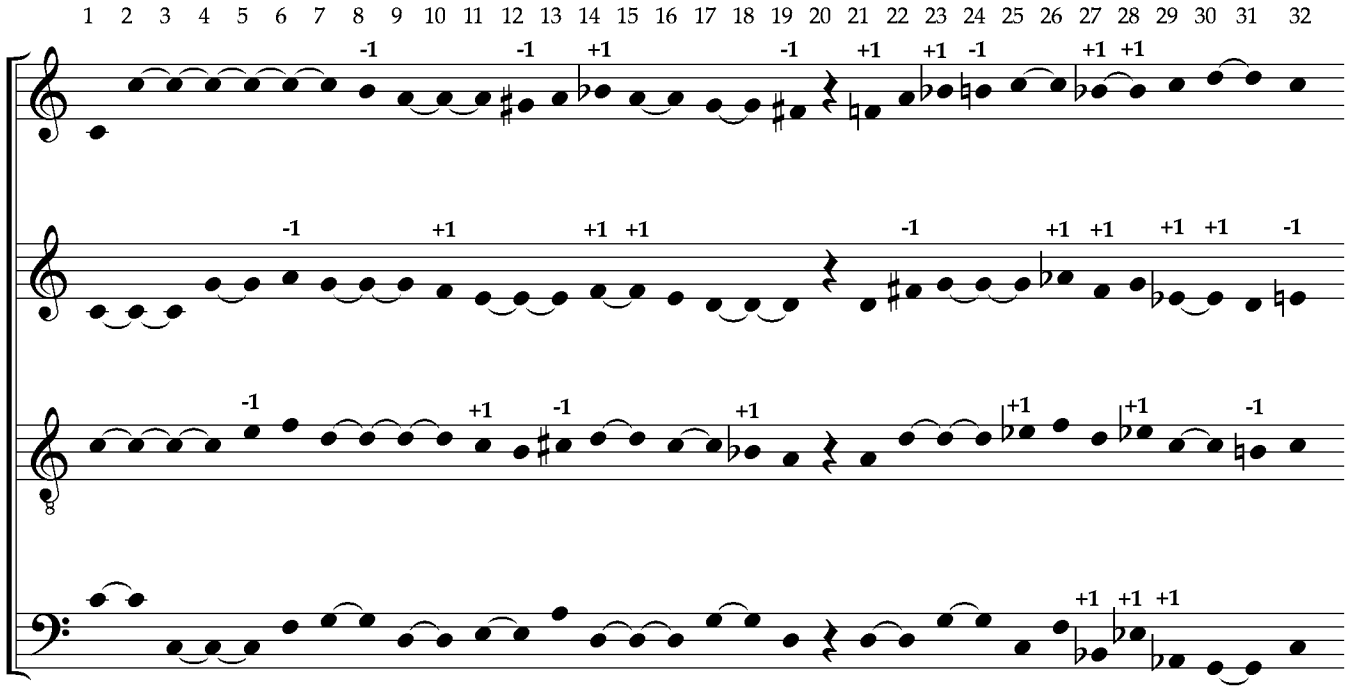
Just Tuning Exercise: G Mode

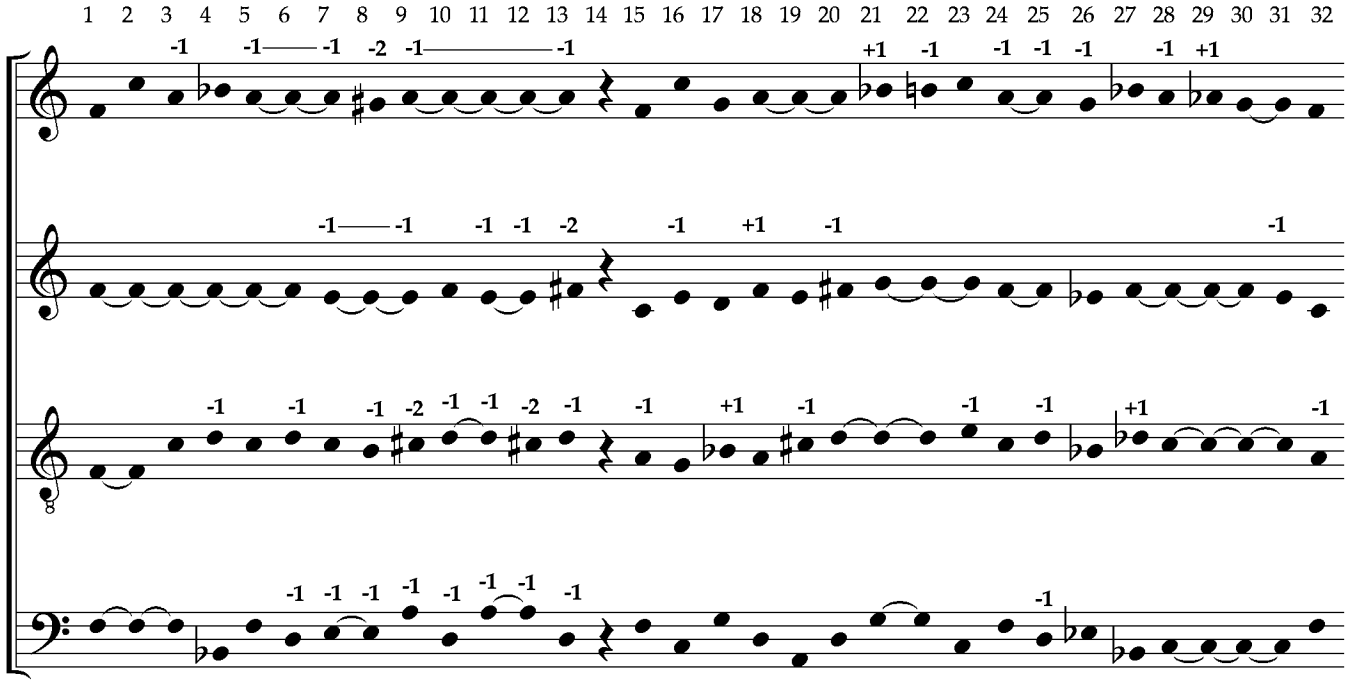
Ross W. Duffin (2000)



Just Tuning Exercise: C Mode

Ross W. Duffin (2000)



Just Tuning Exercise: F Mode

Ross W. Duffin (2000)