Musical Temperaments

Conversations about intonation have been coming up more recently. Many students have heard me say that notes were not either high enough or low enough. A surface conversation with a student made me realize that I did not know enough about historical and current tuning methods. My education had been general, and not specific. It is never too late to learn new things. I took this as an opportunity to start some research into this. It felt like I ended up falling down the rabbit hole and going way further than I planned. All of this took probably close to 20 hours. I must admit that I learned an immense amount and it brought clarity to my past. Hopefully, some of it will be interesting to you too.

Please forgive the 'science and math' stuff at the end of many files. I found it interesting, but do not expect to have a practical application for most of it. It primarily allowed all my research and documentation to be in one place.

Of course, if you do find any incorrect facts I would be happy to know. I used ChatGPT to short cut some of my formatting and to help tidy up my thoughts. I edited after that as things sometimes got a bit confused. This was my first experiment with this and I found it to be a time saver.

Order of the files since the latter depend on the earlier. The first one will apply to most advanced students. The others are more history based.

1. Just vs Equal Temperament
2. Pythagorean Tuning
3. Meantone Tuning
4. Comparing Temperaments Graphs

Have fun with this!

--Gretchen