

# “The Question of Temperament”

The issue of musical temperament reflects historical controversies that pervade our society to this day:

- Theoretical vs empirical
- Ideal vs reality
- Principle vs compromise
- Godlike vs human
- etc

We will explore some of this controversy as it pertains to music. We will also introduce some basic musical concepts as needed. These include:

- Overtone series
- Half steps and whole steps
- Intervals
- Circle of fifths
- Keyboard layout
- Solfège
- Diatonic and chromatic scales
- Transposition
- Tuning alternatives (temperaments)

Included will be examples of familiar piano works, ranging from J. S. Bach to Claude Debussy on keyboards with different tunings and transpositions.