

Progressions of pure fifths in contrary motion

by Erik Carlson

This piece began at 8:00pm in San Diego, California, on January 24, 2026

(which was the start of the first performance)

and will continue for eternity from that moment,

which performers can tap into at any time,

with one pair of voices ascending perfect 3:2 fifths

and the other pair of voices descending perfect 3:2 fifths,

adjusted by octaves to stay within the range of one octave.

The initial pitch was A=440Hz.

Each measure has a duration of 1 minute.

Subsequent performers should determine at which measure to begin in the progression

(and therefore how to tune the notes)

by measuring how many minutes have passed since the beginning of the initial performance.

Notes may be transposed to other octaves

as long as any given performance remains in a single-octave range,

Instrumentation is open, including using electronics.

Ascending 3:2 fifths



etc.

Descending 3:2 fifths



etc.

The image displays two musical staves, each consisting of two five-line staves joined by a brace. The top staff is labeled 'Ascending 3:2 fifths' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Descending 3:2 fifths'. Both staves show a sequence of notes connected by a continuous line, indicating a progression. The top staff starts with a whole note on the first line (C4) and proceeds with half notes, while the bottom staff starts with a whole note on the first space (F3) and proceeds with half notes. The notes are connected by a continuous line, suggesting a continuous progression. The word 'etc.' appears at the end of each staff, indicating the progression continues. The notation is in treble clef and uses a key signature of one sharp (F#).