

Re: Measurement of pitch

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- *From:* "OG" <owen@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 5 Dec 2006 19:11:17 -0000
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"John Bailey" <john_bailey@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:08ran2labqmc71frg5mat6v05k66o0i3v8@xxxxxxxxxxxx

On 4 Dec 2006 16:29:27 -0800, matt271829-news@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Hi

At what time in history were the range of frequencies of audible sounds first roughly known? Who made the first scientifically accurate measurement of the frequency of a sound wave, and when?

"Mersenne's description in his Harmonic universelle (1636) of the first absolute determination of the frequency of an audible tone (at 84 Hz) implies that he already demonstrated that the absolute-frequency ratio of two vibrating strings, radiating a musical tone and its octave, is as 1 : 2.

Fascinating

And I found this description of how he did it

"The first major step toward defining pitch into an exact number of vibrations per second – its frequency – was Mersenne in the 1600s, who stretched a brass wire 138 feet and counted its vibrations by eye. He then stretched smaller wires until they matched the tuning of an organ pipe and scaled up the numbers from the long wire and correctly calculated its frequency."

http://digitalcontentproducer.com/mag/avinstall_measure/