Intonation Adjustments

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The chart below has been circulating on the internet for some time, though it has received a relatively recent and most welcome update. It is perhaps most interesting to note that some intervals above the root will be tuned differently depending upon the context. These adjustments represent those most commonly made when tuning chords in large and small ensembles. Please be aware, however, that these adjustments are not always appropriate when performing with piano or other keyboard instruments, as these adjustments are based on just intonation, while pianos are tuned, "in theory," according to equal temperament. Of course, whether you are playing in an ensemble, with piano, or even alone, YOUR EAR is the best guide to proper intonation, since a number of variables could necessitate adjustments in pitch that deviate from what is indicated here. The simple phrase "if it sounds good, it is good" definitely applies.

