



from Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Sei Sonate per
Cembalo, Nürnberg; no date; Sonata 1.

If you play this in mean-tone, whether with d[#] or e^b, g[#] or a^b, you get an effect which is unevenly - and in a vivacious movement, pointlessly - dramatic; the chromatic scale in longer notes in the bass would certainly benefit from mean-tone, since the semitone steps f-f[#]-g-g[#] have a very clear upwards striving: but the short b^b e^b and a^b (etc.) need to pull downwards to d and g, whilst the a[#], d[#] and g[#] (the same keys) need to push upwards to b^b, e and a just as much. This is the kind of repertoire for which an unequal-thirds temperament, such as Kirnberger III (p.16) gives the best fit.