**Writing for strings and the String Quartet**

**Instruments and Ranges**

Violin



Cello

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Viola

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**Bowing Techniques**

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| **Term** | **Abbreviation in the score** | **What it means** |
| Arco | arco | Play using the bow |
| Pizzicato | pizz | Pluck the strings |
| Slur |  ͡ or ͜ | Do not change bow |
| Col Legno | col leg. (c.l.) | With the wood of the bow |
| Sul ponticello | sul pont. (s.p.) | Near the bridge |
| Sul tasto | sul tasto (s.t.) | Near the fingerboard (normally understood as ‘on’ the fingerboard) |
| Tremolo | trem.  | Fast unmeasured bow changes |
| Legato  | legato | Smooth and without silence between notes |
| Spiccato  | spicc. | Bow leaves the string to produce a light bouncing sound |
| Jeté/Ricochet | Jeté | Bow is ‘thrown’ at the string to produce a rapid series of notes, normally unspecified and unmeasured |
| Bartok/snap Pizzicato | [a circle with a line | String is pulled away from the fingerboard, so that it snaps against in on release |
| Left hand pizz | L.H. pizz or + | String plucked with LH, best with open strings |

**Harmonics**

Natural Harmonics



‘False’ Harmonics



**Listening List**

The string quartet is a very standard line-up since it was first used by Haydn. The string trio (two violins and a cello, or violin, viola cello) is also a standard instrumentation, and there are many examples of duets for

**Pre-1950s** JosephHaydn – String Quartet Op. 54, No. 2

 Ludwig van Beethoven – String Quartet, Op. 131 in C sharp minor

Maurice Ravel – String Quartet in F major

 Antonín Dvořák – No. 12 in F major, Op.96

 Claude Debussy – String Quartet in G minor

 Bela Bartok – String Quartet No. 6

 Anton Webern – Five Pieces for String Quartet (Op. 5)

**Post 1950s** DimitriSchostakovich – String Quartet No. 8

 Thomas Adés – Arcadiana

 Jonathon Harvey – String Quartet No. 1

 György Ligeti – String Quartet No. 2

 Henri Dutilleux – Ainsi la Nuit

 György Kurtág – 12 microludes for String Quartet

 Steve Reich – Different Trains