

# String Quartet No. 1



## Program Note

The initial development of *String Quartet* was supported by the New York Choreographic Institute, an affiliate of New York City Ballet, during its 10th Anniversary 2010 Session.

The Choreographic Institute was established in 2000 to promote the development of young choreographers. In 2003, the Choreographic Institute began commissioning student composers from Juilliard to write a work in collaboration with a selected choreographer. The *String Quartet* was written in collaboration with the renowned German choreographer Marco Goecke for the 10th Anniversary session, which showcased three composers and three choreographers from previous sessions in the first public performances in the Institute's history.

Marco and I had a discussion over the phone concerning the new piece in which he gave me a great deal of freedom to work. This was exciting for me, but also challenging, as I wanted to compose a work that I thought would compliment his fantastic and energetic choreography. At the same time, I also wanted to compose a work that could stand on its own as a concert piece. I spent hours watching and re-watching a number of his works to try to help guide my compositional decisions. I had many false starts, and at one point was nearly finished with another version of the string quartet, completely different from the final product, but felt that while the piece was not bad, I did not think it would compliment Marco's choreography. I threw out this quartet and started from scratch, and soon produced the work in its current state.

The ballet, *For Sascha*, was premiered at Miller Theatre in New York City November 5, 2010, danced by Sean Souzzi, Daniel Applebaum, Marika Anderson, and Gretchen Smith. The music was performed by members of the American Contemporary Music Ensemble.



for Marco Goecke  
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# String Quartet No. 1

Andante e agitato ♩ = 80

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello

*ff* *sim.*

This system contains the first four staves of the score. Each staff begins with a treble clef (Violin I and II) or a bass clef (Viola and Violoncello). The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music consists of rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) and *sim.* (sforzando). There are also accents and hairpins throughout the passage.

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

3

This system contains the next four staves. The time signature changes to 5/4. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the first measure of the first staff.

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

5

*f*

This system contains the final four staves. The time signature changes to 5/4. The music features more complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets of eighth notes marked with a '3' above them. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in the first measure of the first staff.

7

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*ff* *f*

*ff* *f*

*ff* *f*

9

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*ff* *f* *ff*

*ff* *f* *ff*

*ff* *f* *ff*

12

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*f*  
*f*  
*f*  
*f*

14

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*ff*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*ff*

16

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

18

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff* *bow freely*

Vc. *ff* *sub. p*

20 **A** *Largo e molto calmo* ♩ = 60

Vln. I *bow freely*

Vln. II *fp* *bow freely* *fp* *fp* *fp sim.*

Vla. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp sim.* *bow freely*

Vc. *fp* *fp* *fp sim.* *p*

26

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.



**B**

31

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*p*

*p*

8<sup>va</sup>

Detailed description: This system contains measures 31 through 35. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Measures 31-35 show a complex texture with many beamed notes and slurs. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and an octave marking (*8<sup>va</sup>*) above the first violin staff in measure 35.

**C**

36

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*leggiero*

*leggiero*

*p leggiero*

*p leggiero*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36 through 42. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The key signature has two flats. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 at measure 36, then to 3/4 at measure 37, and finally to 6/8 at measure 40. Measures 36-39 are marked with a circled 8 (8) above the first violin staff. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and the marking *leggiero* (light). The Viola and Cello parts have rests in measures 36-39.

43

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 43 through 48. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The key signature has two flats. The time signature changes from 6/8 to 4/4 at measure 43, then to 3/4 at measure 44, and finally to 6/8 at measure 46. The music consists of rhythmic patterns with slurs and accents across all staves.

← ♩ = ♩ →  
**D** ♩ = 120

49

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*dim.*

*pp*

**E**

56 (8)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*p*

**F**

65 (8) (3+2)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

74

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

81 **G** *Giocososo* *Con fuoco*

Vln. I *sfzmf*

Vln. II *sfzmf*

Vla. *sfz mf*

Vc. *sfz mf*

87 **H** *Giocososo* *Con fuoco*

Vln. I *sfzmf*

Vln. II *sfzmf*

Vla. *sfz mf*

Vc. *sfz mf*

92 **I** *Giacoso* *Con fuoco* *Giacoso*

Vln. I *sfz mf* *sf* *sfz mf*

Vln. II *sfz mf* *sf* *sfz mf*

Vla. *sfz mf* *sf* *sfz mf*

Vc. *sfz mf* *sf* *sfz mf*

97 **J** *Con fuoco* *Giacoso* *Con fuoco*

Vln. I *sfzmf* *ff* *sfzmf* *f* *sff*

Vln. II *sffz mf* *ff* *sffz mf* *f* *sff*

Vla. *sffz mf* *ff* *sffz mf* *f* *sff*

Vc. *sffz* *ff* *sffz mf* *f* *sff*

102 *Giacoso* *Con fuoco*

Vln. I *sffz mf* *sff*

Vln. II *sffz mf* *sff*

Vla. *sffz mf* *sff*

Vc. *sffz* *sff*



118 **L**

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*sfz f* *sfz f* *sfz f*

121

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*sfz f* *sfz f* *sfz f* *sfz f*

125 **M**

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*sfz f* *sfz* *f*

*sfz* *meno f* *sfz* *meno f*

*sfz* *sfz* *sfz*



138

Vln. I *sffz ff*

Vln. II *sffz ff*

Vla. *sffz ff*

Vc. *sffz ff*

O

Molto agitato

142

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *sub. p*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

145

Vln. I *fff*

Vln. II *fff*

Vla. *fff*

Vc. *fff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*



149 P

Vln. I *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Vln. II *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Vla. *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Vc. *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 149 through 152. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The music is in 6/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 149 and 150 are in 6/4, while measures 151 and 152 are in 3/4. The score includes triplets and accents. A dynamic marking of *fff* (fortississimo) is present throughout. A section marker 'P' is located above measure 151.

153

Vln. I *fff* *fff* *fff* *ffff*

Vln. II *fff* *fff* *fff* *ffff*

Vla. *fff* *fff* *fff* *ffff*

Vc. *fff* *fff* *fff* *ffff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 153 through 156. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 153 and 154 are in 3/4, while measures 155 and 156 are in 4/4. The score includes triplets and accents. Dynamic markings range from *fff* to *ffff*. A key signature change to one flat (Bb) occurs at the start of measure 155.

Q

159

Vln. I *molto dim.* [*fff*] [*fff*]

Vln. II *molto dim.* [*fff*] [*fff*]

Vla. *molto dim.* [*fff*] [*fff*]

Vc. *molto dim.* [*fff*] [*fff*]

Detailed description: This system contains measures 159 through 162. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). Measures 159 and 160 are in 3/4, while measures 161 and 162 are in 4/4. The score includes accents and dynamic markings. A section marker 'Q' is located above measure 159. Dynamic markings include *molto dim.* and [*fff*].

163

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

167

**R**

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

174

**S** Largo e molto calmo ♩ = 54

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

183

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 183 through 188. The score is for four instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and back to 2/4. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. Dynamics include *p* and *f*. The key signature has one flat.

192

T

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

con vib.  
*pp* con vib.  
con. vib. *pp*  
*pp*  
senza dim.  
*pp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 192 through 198. A section marker 'T' is placed above measure 194. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4, then 5/4, 4/4, and back to 3/4. The music includes dynamics such as *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*. Performance instructions include 'con vib.' and 'senza dim.'. The key signature has one flat.

199

U

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

non vib.  
*pp* non vib.  
non vib. *pp*  
*pp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 199 through 205. A section marker 'U' is placed above measure 200. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The music includes dynamics such as *pp* and *ppp*. Performance instructions include 'non vib.'. The key signature has one flat.

V

205

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Non rit.

211

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.