

DAVID  
AVSHALOMOV

# String Quartet

(1972-3, rev.1974)

SCORE

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## STRING QUARTET

Though written in 1972/73 (and revised several times since), the lyrical three-movement *String Quartet* sounds more “modern” than my later, and particularly most recent, works. While fundamentally still tonal, it contains thematic passages whose chromatic bent and economy of pitch usage suggests a brief episodic flirtation with melodic serialism (a path I never pursued). The opening movement, while related to sonata form in such elements as a full return of opening materials, is highly exploratory in its use of several recurring thematic segments. After a dreamy opening, it reveals a more rhythmic, dancelike character, with a slowed coda that dissolves in a complex, bitter harmony. The scherzo, which I wrote last, and very quickly, is a brief, ironic, whimsical rondo—but with increasingly distorted returns of the rondo subject which almost threaten to break the form. The slow, intense finale, starting out of the highest, quietest sounds, reflects a long, troubled dream sequence, full of anxiety, childish resentments, and ultimately, sadness, ending in a grey, bleak dawn.

[Note by the composer]

# String Quartet

## I. Masks, Roles, Humors

David Avshalomov

**Tranquillo** ♩ = 50

Violin I *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Violin II *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Viola *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vcl. *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

*espr.*

**A**

*lunga* **Piu mosso** (♩ = 84)

*pp* *p* *pp* *lunga*

*pp* *p* *pp* *lunga*

*pp* *p* *pp* *lunga*

*pp* *p* *pp* *lunga* *pizz.* *espress., vibr.*

**Allegro vivace** ♩ = 130

**B**

*mf* *f* *poco f* *f* *f*

*arco* *mp* *f* *f* *f*

*mf* *f* *l.v.* *mp* *f* *f* *f*

28 *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sub. mp*

40 **C** Hold back  $\text{♩} = 112$  Pesante  $\text{♩} = 108$

*mp* *f* *f* *fff* *fff* *fff*

52 **D** A tempo  $\text{♩} = 126$

*pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *pp* *pp*

*pizz.* *arco* *pizz., vibr.* *arco*

64 **E**

*mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

*arco*

76 **F**

*mf* *mf cantando* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

*pizz.* *arco*

88 **G**

Violin I: *mp*, *f*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*

Violin II: *mp*, *f*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*

Viola: *p*, *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*

Cello/Double Bass: *p*, *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*

99 **H**

Violin I: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*

Violin II: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*

Viola: *mp*, *pp*, *p*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*

Cello/Double Bass: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*

111

Violin I: *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *mf*, *mf*, *f*

Violin II: *f*, *ff*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *mf*, *mf*, *f*

Viola: *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *mf*, *mf*, *f*

Cello/Double Bass: *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *pp*, *mf*, *mf*

121 **I** *cantando*

Violin I: *ff*, *ritmico*, *p*, *mp*

Violin II: *f*, *ritmico*, *p*, *mp*

Viola: *f*, *ritmico*, *p*, *mp*

Cello/Double Bass: *f*, *ritmico*, *p*, *mp*

J

Violin I: *pizz.*, *sf*, *p*, *morendo*

Violin II: *pizz.*, *sf*, *p*

Cello/Double Bass: *pizz.*, *sf*, *p*

Violin I: *pp*, *arco*, *mp*, *pp*

Violin II: *pp*, *arco*, *mp*, *p*

Cello/Double Bass: *pp*, *arco*, *mf cantando*, *f*, *mf*, *p*

Tempo: *Tranquillo* ♩=50

Violin I: *mf*, *ten. ten.*, *sfp*, *p*, *mp*

Violin II: *mf*, *ten. ten.*, *sfp*, *mp*

Cello/Double Bass: *mf*, *ten. ten.*, *poco f cantando*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *mf*, *p*

Tempo: *A tempo* ♩=50

Violin I: *mf*, *ten.*, *pp*, *sf*, *p*, *mf*, *fp*

Violin II: *mf*, *ten.*, *pp*, *sf*, *p*, *mf*, *fp*

Cello/Double Bass: *mf*, *ten.*, *pp*, *sf*, *p*, *mf*, *fp*

Tempo: *A tempo (tranquillo)* ♩=50, *accel.* ♩=74

164 **L** Allegretto  $\text{♩} = 50$  *accel.* Allegro vivace  $\text{♩} = 130$

>pp p mp poco mf

>pp p mp poco mf

>pp p mp poco mf

>pp p mp poco mf molto

177 **M**

f sf mp sf sf sf sf

mf sf f sf sf sf sf

f sf sf sf sf sf sf

f sf sf sf sf sf sf

188

p f p f p

mf (solo) f p f p

f p p f p

mp f p p f

200 **N**

p mp >p

p mp >p

p mp >p

p mp >p

215

O

Musical score for measures 215-230. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. The music is marked with dynamics *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *molto*. A section marked "LH pizz. l.v." (Left Hand pizzicato, first violin) is indicated in the Cello/Double Bass staff. The tempo is marked "molto".

230

P

Musical score for measures 230-243. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves. The music is marked with dynamics *sf*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. The tempo is marked "appassionato". A triplet of eighth notes is indicated in the Cello/Double Bass staff.

243

Q

Musical score for measures 243-256. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves. The music is marked with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *ff*. The tempo is marked "molto".

256

(meno f)

Musical score for measures 256-260. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves. The music is marked with dynamics *f* and *ff*. The tempo is marked "(meno f)".

266 **R**

*sf* *mp* *p* *mp* *mp* *mp*

*pizz. vibr.* *pizz. vibr.* *pizz.* *pizz.*

*S*

278 **T**

*mp* *mp* *poco* *mf* *mp* *p*

*(pizz.)* *(pizz.)* *vibr.*

290 *rit.* . . . . , **A tempo** ♩=130

*pp* *pp* *pp* *fp* *mp* *fp* *mp* *f* *mp*

*arco* *arco* *arco* *arco*

299 **U** *marcato* **V**

*f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *mf*

*marcato* *marcato* *marcato* *marcato*

Musical score for measures 305-310. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of four staves. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *sf*. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes with some rests.

Musical score for measures 320-330. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of four staves. It includes a section marked 'W' at measure 320. Dynamics range from *mp* to *ff*. Performance instructions include *pizz.*, *arco*, and *Hold back*. A tempo change to 112 is indicated at measure 325.

Musical score for measures 331-340. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of four staves. It includes a section marked 'X' at measure 331. Dynamics are primarily *ff* and *fff*. Performance instructions include *poco rit.*, *pizz.*, and *arco*. A tempo change to 100 is indicated at measure 335. The music is marked *pesante* and *sf*.

Musical score for measures 340-345. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. It includes a section marked 'Y' at measure 340. Dynamics range from *sf* to *mf*. Performance instructions include *espr.* and *mf*. The music features long, sustained notes with dynamic markings.

**Z**

347

*msf* *p* *p* *molto espress.* *mp* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *p dim.* *p dim.* *p dim.* *p dim.*

*poco rit.* *lunga (10 sec.)*

# II. Rondetto

Allegretto capriccioso

1  $\text{♩} = 96$  **A** poco rit.

**A** tempo  $\text{♩} = 96$

15 **B** Piu mosso  $\text{♩} = 112$  Tempo I  $\text{♩} = 96$

24 **C**

29 (vib. norm.) **D** Poco mosso

*sf* *mf* *sost.* *mf* *mp* *mp*

*pizz.* *(pizz.)* *(pizz.)*

**E** Tempo I ♩.=96

*p* *misterioso* *pp* *p* *pp* *(vib. norm.)* *p misterioso* *mp*

47 **F** Piu mosso ♩.=112

*mp* *mf* *ff* *8va* *mf* *mp* *col legno* *f* *col legno* *f*

*arco* *mf* *f* *ff* *ff* *f*

51 (8) **G** poco rit. Tempo I ♩.=96

*poco espr.* *mp* *pp* *mp dolce* *pp* *ff sf*

*poco espr.* *mp* *pp* *mp dolce* *pp* *ff sf*

*poco espr.* *nat.* *pp* *mp dolce* *pp* *at frog, rudely* *ff* *sf*

*poco espr.* *nat.* *pp* *mp dolce* *pp* *at frog, rudely* *ff* *sf*

59

on the string

pizz. vibr.

arco sentimental

**H**

romantic

*ff* *sf* *f* *ff* *p dolce* *p*

on the string

pizz. vibr.

arco

*ff* *sf* *f* *ff* *p* *sotto voce* *p*

on the string

*ff* *sf* *f* *ff* *p* *sotto voce* *p*

on the string

*ff* *sf* *f* *ff* *p* *pizz. vibr.* *p*

67

rit. **I** A tempo ♩.=96 rit. A tempo ♩.=96

*mp* *p* *espr. pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *ff* *gliss.*

*p* *pp* *p* *mp* *ff* *gliss.*

*p* *pp* *p* *mp* *ff* *gliss.*

arco

*p* *pp* *p* *mp* *ff* *gliss.* *gliss.*

66

**J** senza vibr.

*sf* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *pf* *p* *pp* *ff* *p*

senza vibr.

*sf* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *pf* *p* *pp* *ff* *p*

pizz. arco

senza vibr. arco

*sf* *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *pf* *p* *pp* *ff* *p*

senza vibr. arco

*sf* *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *pf* *p* *pp* *ff* *p*

heavy pressure, little bow, stop bow (nat.)

*ff* rude, at frog *p*

**K**

84

pizz. arco

*mp* *mf* *mf* *f* *pizz. (quick)* *p*

*mp* *mp* *pizz. (quick)* *p*

pizz. arco

*mp* *mp* *pizz. (quick)* *p*

*mp* *mp* *pizz. (quick)* *p*

# III. The Dream

1 Lento ♩=80

*p espr. Quasi recitativo, tranquillo (quasi in tempo)* **mf**

**mf**

**mf**

*p*

*senza vibr. pp*

**mf**

**pp**

**pp**

**pp**

**pp**

**pp**

**pp**

**pp**

*sul tasto* <sup>7</sup> *rush the figure (affrettando) but keep tempo*

*p*

*non affrett.*

*giusto*

*nat.*

*espr. mfpp*

<sup>3</sup> *sul tasto*

26 **B** poco rit. **A tempo Giusto** ♩=80

mp espr., quasi recit. f mp p pp

sul tasto ppp

sul tasto ppp

mp

32 **ppp** sul tasto <sup>6</sup> **mf** espr. sul G

ppp sul tasto <sup>6</sup> mf espr. sul G

nat. 3 mp

nat. mp 5 5

sul tasto ppp <sup>6</sup>

37 **C** <sup>7</sup>

p pp ff mp pp

pizz. arco

ff fp

pizz. arco H

f sost. f

nat. mp 9

f N mf

43

*f* *mf* *f* *f*

*fp* *mf* *mfp* *mfp*

*sempre molto sost.*

48

**D** Poco mosso *tornando* Ancora giusto  $\text{♩} = 80$

*mp* *mp* *molto sost.* *f* *molto sost.* *f*

*ritmico* *f* *ritmico* *f*

56

*etc.* *etc.*

*f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

62

**E**

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

67

*f* *ff* *ritmico* *8va* *ritmico* *ritmico* *ritmico*

70

*ff* *ff* *ff* *stridente* *etc.* *etc.* *ff* *pizz.*

74

*fff* *fff* *fff* *(pizz.)* *fff* *fff* *fff*

80

*pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *pp* *ppp* *rit.* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *pp* *ppp* *senza vibr.*

*sul tasto* *dolce, non vibr.* *arco sul tasto*

88 **H** Tempo I ♩=80  
*senza vibr.*

perdendosi nat. *p* *senza vibr.* *poco vibr.* *vibr. norm.*

perdendosi nat. *p* *senza vibr.* *poco vibr.* *vibr. norm.*

perdendosi *p* *senza vibr.* *poco vibr.* *vibr. norm.*

perdendosi nat. *p* *senza vibr.* *poco vibr.* *vibr. norm.*

*mp*

95 **I** In Tempo

vibr. norm.

pesante *p* pesante

*pp* start slow *mf* piangendo *f* *f*

8<sup>va</sup> sul G

102

short short

sostenuto

*mp* sub.

quasi gliss.

*f* *mf* *p* *fp*

quasi gliss.

*fp*

quasi gliss.

*f* *p* *f* *p*

sul ponticello

sul ponticello

*pp*

**J**

108

Violin I: *mp*

Violin II: *f*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *quasi gliss.*, *tr*

Viola: *f*, *pp*

Cello/Double Bass: *f*, *pp*

110

Violin I: *tr*, *mf (solo)*, *sost.*

Violin II: *mf*, *ff*, *nat.*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*

Viola: *ff*, *nat.*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*

Cello/Double Bass: *ff*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*

113

**K**

Violin I: *fp*, *mf*, *mp*, *fp*

Violin II: *f (solo)*, *ff*, *ten.*, *H*, *mp*, *ff*

Viola: *mp*, *ten.*, *pizz.*, *N*

Cello/Double Bass: *ppp*, *ten.*, *f*

117

*fp* *f* *sf* *ff*

sul G

*mf* *mf* *ff*

ritmico

arco

*ff*

122

*ffp* *mf*

*ffp* *mf* *ritmico*

ritmico

*mf* *ff* *p* *mp* *mf*

*mf* *ff* *p* *mp* *mf*

**L**

127

*mf* *f* *f* *pizz.*

*f* *f* *pizz.*

*f* *pizz.*

130

*ff* *sf* *sf* *espr.* *ritmico* *marcato*

*ff* *sf* *sf* *espr. gliss.* *ritmico* *marcato*

arco *ff* *sf* *sf* *espr.* *ritmico* *marcato*

*ff* *sf* *sf* *espr.* *ritmico* *marcato*



151 **O** **Meno** ♩=66

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

154(8) **Poco mosso** **Piu mosso** **Rit.** ♩=60 *ten.* *ten.*

*mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

159 **P** **Piu mosso** ♩=80 **riten.** ♩=72 **Piu mosso** ♩=80

*fff* *f* *f* *mf*

164 **p** **pp** **ppp** **molto rit.**

*p* *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

Meno  $\text{♩} = 60$

**Q** Tempo I  $\text{♩} = 80$

167 (8)

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

*affrettando* *non affrettando (giusto)*

171 (8)

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

173

*pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

175

**R**

*ppp espr.* *pp*

*pp* *ppp espr.* *pp* *ossia (small notes)*

*pp* *ppp espr.* *pp* *ossia (small notes)*

*pp* *ppp espr.* *pp*

177

**Piu mosso**  $\text{♩} = 104$

*ritmico*

*pp* *mf*

*ritmico* *pp* *mf*

*ritmico* *pp* *mf*

*ritmico* *pp* *mf*

179

*rit.* *al Tempo I*  $\text{♩} = 80$

*pp* *espr.* *mp*

*pp* *espr.* *mp*

*pp* *espr.* *mp*

*pp* *espr.* *mp*



189 **S**

nat. *pp*

nat. *pp*

nat. *pp*

nat. *pp*

191

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

193 **T**

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*mp*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*p*

sul tasto

sul tasto



# DAVID AVSHALOMOV

## Works for/with Strings

*Elegy* - string orchestra [9]

*Pangs of Love* - string orchestra [32]

(Romantic variations on a Rachmaninoff Love Theme)

*Diamond Variations* on an original theme,  
string orchestra with opt. harp [12]

*Concerto con Timpani* (baroque) - timp., strings, harpsichord [12]

*Arietta* - flute and strings (opt. 2nd flute) [2]

*String Quartet* [23]

*Trotsky's Train*, piano sextet (string quartet with double bass) [32]

**Also:** version for string orchestra and piano

*The Last Poet's Farewell* - solo violin [22]

*Elegy* arranged for solo violin with piano [9]

*Dance* - violin (intermediate) and (student) piano [3]

*Diversion* - violin and timpani [5]

*Torn Curtain* suite - viola with piano [32]

*Sonata for Violoncello* with piano [28]

*Variations on a Beethoven Theme* - solo violoncello [12]

Performance materials and complete list of works available through



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