

String Quartet No. 1 in C Major

Allegro Assai

Joseph Bologne, Op. 1
(1745-1799)

The musical score is presented in four staves: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The time signature is 2/4. The first system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Violin I part features a melodic line with a slur over the first two measures. The Violin II part plays a sustained note. The Viola part also plays a sustained note. The Violoncello part has a rhythmic pattern. The second system starts with a triplet of eighth notes in the Violin I part, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The other parts continue their respective lines.

Joseph Bologne (1745-1799) was born to an enslaved African and her Guadeloupean master. His father moved the family to France in 1753, where Joseph became a skilled fencer and was dubbed chevalier at age nineteen. As an acclaimed professional violinist, he premiered his own concerti and published string quartets, operas, and symphonies. He founded the Concert de la Loge Olympique, directed the Amateurs, and was a colonel of the Légion des Américains et du Midi.