

String Quartet No. 4 in C Minor

Allegro Moderato

Joseph Bologne, Op. 1
(1745-1799)

The musical score is written for four parts: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature is C minor (three flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegro Moderato'. The score shows the first four measures of the piece. Vln. I starts with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, then a half note Bb4, and a half note C5. Vln. II starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, then a quarter note A4, then a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5. Vla. starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, then a quarter note A4, then a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5. Vc. starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, then a quarter note A4, then a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5.

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.