

# String Quartet No. 5 in G Minor

Allegro

Joseph Bologne, Op. 1  
(1745-1799)

The musical score is for a string quartet in G minor, common time, marked Allegro. It consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The time signature is common time (C). The score shows the first five measures. Violin I starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a triplet of eighth notes (Bb4, A4, G4) in the third measure. Violin II starts with a quarter rest, followed by a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes (G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4) in the second measure, which continues through the fifth measure. Viola and Violoncello have a similar rhythmic pattern of eighth notes (G3, A3, Bb3, A3, G3) in the second measure, which continues through the fifth measure. The score ends with a quarter rest in the fifth measure for all parts.

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.