

String Quartet No. 4 in C Minor

Allegro Moderato

Joseph Bologne, Op. 1
(1745-1799)

The musical score is for a string quartet in C minor, 4/4 time, marked Allegro Moderato. It consists of four staves: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature has three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and the time signature is 4/4. The score shows the first four measures of the piece. Violin I has a melodic line with a long note in the first measure. Violin II has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Viola has a long note in the first measure. Violoncello has a bass line with a long note in the first measure.

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.