

Score

String Quartet

Opus 121 in D-Major

By Amédée Méreaux (1802 - 1873)

Looking at this string quartet op. 121 by Amédée Méreaux (1802 - 1874) we find that Méreaux--known mostly as a piano virtuoso and composer for his instrument as well as a music critic--was competent as a writer of quartets and that his op. 121 is an enjoyable work. This typeset is intended for study, rehearsal and performance and consists of the score and parts. It was prepared using Musescore (Musescore.org).

The source for this quartet is the first edition (in parts) by Richault, Paris (1877). It is available on IMSLP¹. Its quality is rather poor. There are numerous errors: Missing accidentals, incorrect rhythm resulting in measures with an incorrect metrum, even a whole additional measure in the cello part. The markings for dynamics and articulation, while very detailed, are not consistent across the four parts. There are crescendo and diminuendo ("hairpin") markings which obviously point in the wrong direction. Accent markings (">") and "hairpins" are not clearly distinguishable from each other; the end point of slurs is not always clear.

In order to facilitate playing the piece such markings were added in the typeset where they were missing and corrected where they contradicted the other parts or were otherwise obviously incorrect. Added and corrected markings appear in small print or dashed lines (for legato slurs and ties) with the exception of staccato dots for which the software does not offer a small version (which would be difficult to distinguish anyway). Courtesy accidentals were added where necessary. Some superfluous courtesy accidentals in the source were removed. Accidentals that had to be added as a correction were put in parentheses. Some misspelled Italian markings were corrected, such as "seggetto" to "soggetto". However some not commonly used Italian markings were left unaltered e.g. "cantando".

Even with these additions and corrections there are still ambiguities, especially for dynamic markings. For example double markings are common (**sf** and < on the same note: is this a stronger accent than either alone? Similarly: "cresc." and hairpin at the same location²).

Additionally the following corrections were made:

Mvmt 1

M. 196, viola: Source has 10 beats in this measure; 6th note of the measure must be an quaver rather than a crotchet.

M. 200, vln 2: Source has quaver. Corrected to crotchet.

Mvmt 2

M. 108 & 284, viola: Fifth quaver corrected from e to f.

M. 151, cello: The source has one measure too many in the cello part. The extra measure is a whole measure rest at M. 151 (tempo giusto).

Mvmt 4

M. 23, vln 1: Last two semiquavers corrected from g#-b to a#-c# in analogy to M. 274.

M. 306, viola: Source has quaver on second beat. Corrected to second half of first beat to match the other voices.

Performance times: Allegro (dotted 1/4 = 84): 10 min.; Scherzo (3/4 = 70): 5 min.; Preludio - Andante (1/2 = 60 - dotted 1/4 = 60): 7 min.; Finale (1/4 = 100): 7 min. Total performance time ca. 30 min.³

¹ [http://imslp.org/wiki/String_Quartet%2C_Op.121_\(Méreaux%2C_Jean-Amédée_Lefroid_de\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/String_Quartet%2C_Op.121_(Méreaux%2C_Jean-Amédée_Lefroid_de))

² I doubt this has much meaning; one should avoid over-interpreting these things..

³ The score and parts were re-uploaded to IMSLP.org on Jan 13, 2018 with about a dozen transcription errors corrected.

Allegro

Musical score for strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello) in 9/8 time. The key signature is one sharp. The dynamics are marked with *f* and *sf*. The score consists of four measures of music.

Musical score for strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello) in 9/8 time. The key signature is one sharp. The dynamics are marked with *sf*, *f*, and cresc. The score consists of eight measures of music.

Musical score for strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello) in 9/8 time. The key signature is one sharp. The dynamics are marked with *mf*. The score consists of eight measures of music.

13

17

22

26

sf *sempre crescendo*

sf *sempre crescendo*

sf *sempre crescendo*

sf *sempre crescendo*

sf

sf

sf

sf

29

sf

sf

sf

p

p

p

p

cresc.

33

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

p

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

37

41

45

49

cresc.

cresc.

53

espressivo

espressivo

f

sf

sf

f

sf

f

sf

57

sf

sf

sf cresc.

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

ritard. a tempo allargando

61

s^f *p* *p*

sf *p* *p*

p *p*

a tempo

65

espressivo *s^f* *s^f cresc.* *s^f* *f* *f*

cresc. *s^f* *cresc.* *s^f cresc.* *f*

cresc. *>* *>* *>* *>* *>*

68

s^f *cresc.* *f* *f* *f*

s^f *f* *f* *f*

> *>* *>* *>* *>*

Musical score for piano, page 10, measures 70-71. The score consists of four staves: Treble, Alto, Bass, and a separate rhythmic staff. The key signature is A major (three sharps). Measure 70 starts with a forte dynamic (f) in the Treble staff. Measure 71 begins with a dynamic marking *sf* (sforzando).

Musical score for piano, page 72, showing four staves of music. The score consists of four staves: Treble, Alto, Bass, and a fourth staff below the bass. The key signature is A major (three sharps). Measure 1 starts with a dynamic *p*. Measures 2-3 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 4 begins with a dynamic *crescendo*. Measures 5-6 continue the rhythmic pattern with dynamics *f* and *f*. Measure 7 starts with a dynamic *crescendo*. Measures 8-9 conclude with dynamics *f sf* and *f*.

77

dim.

p

p

p

1º.tempo

81

ff

sf

ff

sf

ff

sf

ff

sf

83

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

85

cresc. *sf* *sf*

sf *cresc.*

sf *cresc.*

sf *cresc.*

sf *cresc.* *sf*

89

rit. *a tempo*

p *p cantabile*

p

p cantabile

p cantabile

93

cresc.

sf

sf

sf

96

cantabile

cantabile

cantabile

cantabile

100

103

p

cantabile

p

p

p

107

espressivo

2

espress.

riten.

a tempo

cresc.

cresc.

111

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

114

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

sf

117

cresc.

cresc.

crescendo

121

cresc.

sf

125

p

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

riten.

129

sf

sf

sf

cresc.

cresc.

a tempo

133

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

137

cresc.

cresc.

sf

141

(cresc.) -

(cresc.) -

146

f

f

f

sf

f

150

sf

sf

sempre crescendo -

sf

sf

sempre crescendo -

sf

sf

sempre crescendo -

sf

154

(cresc.) - -

(cresc.) *sf*

(cresc.) - -

f sf

dim.

p

p

cresc.

159

cresc.

p

p

cresc.

163

p

p

cresc.

=

167

<*sf* espress. ————— *p* crescendo
p crescendo
p ————— crescendo

crescendo

171

riten.
sf ————— *a tempo*
cantabile

176

cresc. ————— *2 con espressione*
2

cresc. —————

A musical score page from Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5, page 193. The score consists of four staves: Violin 1 (top), Violin 2, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature is A major (three sharps). The tempo is indicated as Allegro. The dynamics are dynamic markings such as *f* (fortissimo), *sf* (sforzando), and *cresc.* (crescendo). The music features various rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note chords and sustained notes with grace marks. The score is written in a clear, professional musical notation style.

Musical score for orchestra, page 195, measures 1-2. The score consists of four staves: Violin 1 (G clef), Violin 2 (G clef), Cello/Bass (C clef), and Double Bass (F clef). The key signature is A major (three sharps). Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic (f) for Violin 1, featuring sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 2 continues with sixteenth-note patterns, including grace notes and slurs. Measure 3 begins with a forte dynamic (f) for Violin 2, followed by a sustained note. Measure 4 begins with a forte dynamic (sf) for Cello/Bass, followed by eighth-note patterns.

199

f

sf dim.

f

ff

p

202

dim.

pp

pp

diminuendo

pp

pp

SCHERZO. Vivace

Violin I

mf *p* *f* *p*

Violin II

mf *p* *f* *#f*

Viola

mf *p* *f*

Violoncello

mf *p* *f*

f *sf* ³ *sf* ³ *p* *cresc.*

p *sf* *sf* *sf* *p* *cresc.*

p *sf* *sf* *sf* *p* *cresc.*

p *sf* *sf* *sf* *p* *cresc.*

(cresc.) - - - - -

f *f* *f* *f*

20

sf

p

pizz.

p

sf

26

f

f

f

arco

f

p

f

p

f

f

sf

f

p

#f

f

33

f

f

f

p

f

f

f

p

f

f

f

p

f

40

p

sf *3*

sf

p

p

sf

sf

p

sf

sf

p

sf

sf

p

sf

sf

p

47

cresc.

sf

p

cresc.

sf

p

p

cresc.

p

sf

p

p

cresc.

p

sf

p

54

f

p

p

cresc.

f

f

p

p

cresc.

f

f

p

pizz.

p

cresc.

f

60

f

f

f

f arco

p

ff

f

p

ff

f

f

68

>

p

>

p

>

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

75

cresc.

cresc.

crescendo

f

f

f

81

espressivo

p

grazioso

f *espressivo*

p

mf

f

p

88

grazioso

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

sf

f

f

f

f

94

p

p

p

p

101

cresc.

f

f

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

106

(*cresc.*)

(*cresc.*)

(*cresc.*)

(*cresc.*)

ff

f

cresc.

f cresc.

f cresc.

f cresc.

ff

f cresc.

f cresc.

111

(*cresc.*) *con anima*

(*cresc.*)

(*cresc.*)

(*cresc.*)

f

sf

f

f

f

117

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

f *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *f* *p*

124

f *sf* *3* *sf* *p* *cresc.*

f *f* *f* *p* *cresc.*

sf *sf* *sf* *p* *cresc.*

sf *sf* *sf* *p* *cresc.*

131

(*cresc.*) - - - - *sf* *mf*

(*cresc.*) - - - - *sf* *mf* *sf*

(*cresc.*) - - - - *sf* *mf* *sf* *sf*

138

p

p

cresc.

f

f arco

p

pizz.

p

f

144

Tempo giusto

p

f

sf

sf

f

p

f

sf

f

f

sf

f

sf

152

Canone

f

161

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

sf

sf

169

sf

sf

sf

176

3

sf

sf

sf

184

measures 184-185

cresc. - - - - -

191

f

p

cresc. - - - - -

f

p

cresc. - - - - -

(*cresc.*) *f*

sforzando

p

cresc. - - - - -

197

f

f

sforzando

f

sforzando

f

sforzando

f

sforzando

Musical score for piano, page 204, showing four staves of music. The score includes dynamic markings such as *sforzando* (*sf*), *pianissimo* (*p*), *crescendo* (*cresc.*), *forte* (*f*), *riten.* (ritenuntio), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *leggiero*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns across the staves, with some notes tied together. The right-hand staff features a prominent bass line in the lower half of the staff.

Musical score for orchestra, page 12, measures 212-213. The score consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Cello/Bass, and Double Bass. The key signature is one flat. Measure 212 starts with a dynamic *p*. The Violin I and II parts play eighth-note patterns. The Cello/Bass part has sustained notes. The Double Bass part has eighth-note patterns. Measures 213 start with a dynamic *f*. The Violin I and II parts play eighth-note patterns. The Cello/Bass part has sustained notes. The Double Bass part has eighth-note patterns.

225

(cresc.) - - -

(cresc.)

(cresc.) - - -

sforzando

f

sforzando

f

sforzando

f

231

p

pizz.

p

sforzando

f

f

f

arco

p

f

237

p

f

f

p

f

f

p

f

f

sforzando

f

f

p

f

244

f *p*

f *p*

f *p*

f *p*

251

cresc.

cresc.

crescendo

mf > *f* >

257

espressivo *p*

grazioso

f *espressivo*

p

p

mf

f > *p* > *mf*

264

grazioso

cresc.

cresc.

sf

f

270

p

p

p

p

277

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

p

cresc.

282

(cresc.)

ff

f

cresc.

f cresc.

cresc.

ff

f cresc.

287

(cresc.) *con anima*

sf

f

(cresc.)

sf

f

(cresc.)

f

(cresc.)

f

293

p

f

p

f

p

f

p

f

p

300

sforzando

p

cresc.

307

(cresc.)

sforzando

f

sforzando

f

sforzando

f

(cresc.)

(cresc.)

sforzando

f

314

p

p

cresc.

p

pizz.

f

f

f

arco

f

320

The musical score consists of four staves, each representing a different instrument in a string quartet. The instruments are: Violin 1 (top staff), Violin 2 (second staff from top), Viola (third staff from top), and Cello (bottom staff). The music is in common time. Key signatures change throughout the piece, including one flat, no sharps or flats, and one sharp. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *sf* (sforzando), and *s>*. Performance markings such as grace notes and slurs are also present.

PRELUDIO. Adagio

con sordino

Violin I

con sordino *pp sempre legatissimo*

Violin II

con sordino *pp sempre legatissimo*

Viola

pp sempre legatissimo con sordino

Violoncello

p sempre legatissimo

14

espressivo

p

espressivo

p

espressivo

p

espressivo

24

espressivo

cresc.

cresc.

espressivo

Andante

36 senza sordino *f* < *p* < cresc.

40 *p* < *f* < *p* < *p* < *p* < *p* < cresc.

p < *f* < *p* < *p* < *p* < *p* <

> *p* < *f* < *p* < *p* < *p* < *p* <

< *p* < *f* < *p* < *p* < *p* < *p* <

43 *p* < > espressivo *p* < *s*f *p* <

cresc. > *p* < > *p* < >

> *p* < > *p* < >

cresc. < > cresc. < > cresc. < >

47

51

54

58

cresc. 3

63 *cantabile*

cantabile

sf *espress.*

sf

67

sf cresc. *sf*

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

71

sf

f *cresc.*

f *cresc.*

f

74

sf

f

f

sf

sf

f

77

sf

f

f

sf

sf

f *cresc.*

f *cresc.*

f *cresc.*

sf

80

ff *sf* *sf* *p* *pp*
ff *p* *pp*
ff *p* *pp*

84

p *pp* <*cresc.* >*cresc.*
p *pp* <*cresc.* >*cresc.*
pp *p* *pp* <*cresc.* >*cresc.*

88

p *f* *p* *p* *cresc.*
p *f* *p* *p* *cresc.*
p *f* *p* *p* *cresc.*

91

p <> <>
p <>
pp
p *cresc.*

cresc. <> <>
p <>
p <>
pp
p *cresc.*

<>
p <>
pp >
p —
cantabile

<>
pp
mp <> *espress.*

95

sf
<>

sf
<> <>
<> <>
cresc.

<>
sf <>
<> <>
cresc.

<>
sf <>
mp <>
cantando

99

sf
<>
<> <>
cresc.

sf
<> <>
<> <>
<> <>
cresc.

<>
<> <>
<>
cresc.

<>
<> <>
<>
cresc.

103

cresc.

f

sf cresc.

cresc.

f

f cresc.

f

sf

106

sf cresc.

sf

cresc.

110

p

mp

cantando

p

espress.

cresc.

112

p *cresc.*
cantando

mp *cresc. espress.*

114

p

sf *cresc.* *sf*

cresc. *cresc.*

118

cresc.

sf

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

123

Four staves of musical notation in G major (two sharps) and common time. The top three staves use a treble clef, while the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. Performance markings include '>>' above the first staff, '<>' above the second staff, '<<-->>' above the third staff, and '<<-->>' below the fourth staff. Measures 124 and 125 end with a repeat sign.

a tempo

127

Four staves of musical notation in G major (two sharps) and common time. The top three staves use a treble clef, while the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. Performance markings include '<<-->>' above the first staff, 'p' and '<<-->>' above the second staff, '<<-->>' above the third staff, and 'p' below the fourth staff. Measures 128 and 129 end with a repeat sign.

131

Four staves of musical notation in G major (two sharps) and common time. The top three staves use a treble clef, while the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. Performance markings include 'p' above the first staff, '<<-->>' above the second staff, 'p' above the third staff, and 'p' below the fourth staff. Measures 132 and 133 end with a repeat sign.

134

p pp

p pp *cresc.*

p pp *cresc.*

p pp *cresc.*

138

f

f

f *espress.*

f

142

sf

sf

p

p

p

p

Musical score for piano, page 145, showing four staves of music. The top staff has dynamics pp, dim., and ppp. The second staff has dynamics sempre p and dim. The third staff has dynamics sempre p and dim. The bottom staff has dynamics sempre p and ppp.

FINALE. Vivace

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

sf

cresc.

sf

sf

sf

12

17

22

27

33

cresc.

f

p cresc.

cresc.

f

p cresc.

p cresc.

sf — *cresc.*

— *f*

— *p*

39

f

f

f

f

44

cresc.

ten.

cresc.

ten.

49

cresc.

cresc.

scherzando

53

pizz.

p pizz.

p pizz.

arco

pizz.

p

60

arco

p

crescendo

p

crescendo

p

crescendo

67

p > *mf*

arco pizz.

pp > pizz.

arco arco

rit. a tempo brillante

75

arco pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

f

81

crescendo

crescendo

crescendo

crescendo

sf

Musical score for orchestra, page 85, measures 1-5. The score consists of five staves. The top staff (treble clef) has six measures. Measures 1-3 show eighth-note patterns with slurs and dynamic markings *p* and *crescendo*. Measures 4-5 show sixteenth-note patterns with slurs and dynamic *p*. The second staff (treble clef) has four measures, starting with a dotted half note *p*, followed by eighth-note pairs with slurs and dynamic *p*. The third staff (Bass clef) has five measures, starting with a half note *p*, followed by eighth-note pairs with slurs and dynamic *p*. The fourth staff (Bass clef) has five measures, starting with a half note *p*, followed by eighth-note pairs with slurs and dynamic *p*. The bottom staff (Bass clef) has five measures, starting with a half note *p*, followed by eighth-note pairs with slurs and dynamic *p*.

Musical score for orchestra, page 15, measures 95-96. The score consists of four staves: Treble, Alto, Bass, and Cello/Bassoon. The key signature is A major (three sharps). Measure 95 starts with a sixteenth-note pattern in the treble staff. Measures 96-97 show melodic lines with grace notes and slurs. Measure 98 begins with a forte dynamic (f).

101

p

106

p

111

risvegliato

dim.

p

pp

f pizz.

sf arco

f pizz.

sf arco

f pizz.

sf arco

f

sf

sempre più piano

pp

f

sf

119

a tempo

a tempo

f pizz.

sf arco

f pizz.

sf arco

f pizz.

sf arco

125

130

135

sf

sf

139

f

cresc.

sf

cresc.

sf cresc.

sf cresc.

sf

144

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

149

153

Alla fuga

1°. Soggetto

157

163

crescendo

2°. Soggetto

pizz. 3°. Soggetto

arco

A musical score page from a classical piece, numbered 173. The score consists of four staves: Treble Clef (G), Treble Clef (G), Bass Clef (F), and Bass Clef (F). The key signature is three sharps. Measure 1 starts with a rest in the first two staves, followed by eighth-note pairs in the bass staves. Measure 2 continues with eighth-note pairs in the bass staves. Measures 3-4 show a transition: the first staff has a fermata over a note, followed by a pizzicato instruction ('pizz.') and a melodic line with grace notes. The second staff has a fermata over a note, followed by an arco instruction ('arco') and a melodic line. The third staff has a fermata over a note, followed by a melodic line. The fourth staff has a fermata over a note, followed by a melodic line. Measures 5-6 show the continuation of the melodic lines from the previous measures, with various articulations like dots and dashes.

179

crescendo

crescendo

crescendo

184

arco

190

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

sf

cresc.

sf

cresc.

195

199

cresc.

sf

204

sf

211

218

224

crescendo

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

229

f

f

f

f

235

f

p

f

f

p

p

242

f

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

f

247

dim.

sf

dim.

sf

dim.

sf

sf

252

f >

cresc.

mf

cresc.

mf

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

mf

cresc.

cresc.

259

>

sf

f

sf

264

sf

sf

sf

269

cresc.

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

274

crescendo

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

sf

280

sforzando

crescendo

crescendo

crescendo

crescendo

286

fortissimo

pianissimo

crescendo

fortissimo

pianissimo

crescendo

fortissimo

pianissimo

crescendo

291

fortissimo

fortissimo

fortissimo

fortissimo

296

cresc.

cresc.

300

scherzando

mf pizz.

p pizz.

pizz.

p

306

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

p crescendo

crescendo

314

p

crescendo

p

321

arco

mf pizz.

pp

rit.

a tempo

arco

pizz.

arco

pizz.

329

arco

arco

arco

arco

334

p *crescendo* -

p *crescendo* -

p *crescendo* -

p

338

(cresc.) - - - - -

f
cantando

diminuendo -

(cresc.) - - - - -

f
cantando

f - - - - -

cresc.

sf

dim.

342

(dim.) - - - - -

cresc. - - - - -

sf - - - - -

sf - - - - -

cresc.

sf - - - - -

347

f

f

p

cresc.

cantando

cresc.

f

cresc.

353

cresc.

cresc.

dim.

sf

dim.

359

f

f

sf

sf

f

sf

f

sf

sf