

Selected String Quartets

Here is a sample of assignments from recent chamber music workshops. They are recommended for learning if you don't already know them. Their difficulty ranges from modest (Haydn Op. 20) to high (Ravel).

Beethoven

All of Beethoven's string quartets are worth an exploration. Here are some notable ones.

- Quartet in F major, Op. 18, No. 1 (1799)
- Quartet in F major, Op. 59, No. 1 (1805-6)
- Quartet in F minor, Op. 95 (1809)

Dvorak

Dvorak's quartets are very rewarding, especially for violists!

- Quartet in F major, Op. 96 (1895) "The American Quartet"

Haydn

All of Haydn Quartets are fun to try but here are some of his most famous:

- Op. 20 No. 5 in F minor
- Op. 33 No. 2 in E-flat major – "The Joke"
- Op. 50 No. 6 in D major – "The Frog"
- Op. 64 No. 5 in D major – "The Lark"
- Op. 76 No. 2 in D minor – "Fifths"
- Op. 76 No. 3 in C major – "Emperor"
- Op. 76 No. 4 in B-flat major – "Sunrise"

Mendelssohn

- Quartet in A minor, Op. 13 (1827)
- Quartets Op 44, numbers 1-3

Mozart

The 10 Famous Quartets are all gems.

- Quartet in C major, K. 465 (1785) "Dissonance"
- Quartet in D major, K. 499 (1786) "Hoffmeister"
- Quartet in D major, K. 575 (1789)

Ravel

A challenge for string players but very rewarding – and very French.

- Quartet in F major (1902-3)

Schubert

- Quartet in A minor, D. 804, Op. 29 (1824) "Rosamunde"

Schumann

- Quartet in A major, Op. 41, No. 3 (1842) "Clara"

Shostakovich

- Quartet in C major, Op. 49 (1938)

Smetana

- Quartet in E major, Op. 116 (1876) "Aus meinem Leben"