

# STRING QUARTET

## "From My Life"

This Quartet, written in 1876, has an autobiographical significance as explained by the composer in his letter dated April 12, 1878.

THE FIRST MOVEMENT depicts Smetana's love of Art in his youth, his search for the imaginary, and the premonition of his approaching illness.

THE SECOND MOVEMENT, "*Quasi Polka*", refers to the carefree days of his youth and his passionate love for dancing at the period when he composed many dances.

THE THIRD MOVEMENT, "*Largo Sostenuto*", portrays his idyllic love for a young girl who later became his spouse.

THE FOURTH MOVEMENT pictures the composer rejoicing over the recognition attained by Bohemian National Music and its achieved success. A sudden sustained high E indicates the noise in the composer's ears prior to his deafness. Then follows a painful recollection of his youthful days, a ray of hope against hope which gives way to resignation before the inevitable destiny.

### VIOLIN I

*Allegro vivo appassionato.*

B. SMETANA

I.

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

A

*sf rfz sf rfz sf rfz*

*sf sf sf sf sf*





VIOLIN I

*espress.* *p*

*p* *I* *tranquillo*

*f* *cresc.* *ff* *cresc.*

*meno Allegro* *dim.*

*rall.* *a tempo* *piu p* *f* *sf*

*f* *sf* *sf* *sf* *p* *espress.*

*L* *rall.* *1* *p* *p* *sf*

*1* *sf* *p* *piu p*

*pizz.* *1*

VIOLIN I

Allegro moderato à la Polka.

II.

*sf* *sf* *rinf.* *rfz* *sf* *rfz* *sf* *p* *f* *sf* *f* *sf* *p* *M* *f* *sf* *p* *cresc.* *rfz* *sf* *N leggiero* *p* *p leggiero* *f* *sf*

VIOLIN I

Violin I musical score, measures 1-12. The music is in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features dynamic markings such as *sf*, *sfz*, and *sf*. There is a *P* (piano) marking. Fingerings 3, 4, 3, 3, 3 are indicated. The piece concludes with a fermata.

**Q** *Meno vivo.*

Viola

Viola musical score, measures 1-12. The music is in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features dynamic markings such as *p dolce*, *simile*, *p*, *sf*, *p dim.*, *cresc.*, *dim.*, *p*, *cresc.*, *rfz*, *dim.*, *cresc.*, *espressivo*, *dim.*, *cresc.*, *dolce*, *poco rall.*, *dim.*, *pp*, and *Più*. The piece concludes with a fermata.

VIOLIN I

Allegro.

This page of a violin score contains ten staves of music. The tempo is marked 'Allegro.' The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages, often with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *ff*. The word 'leggero' is used in the sixth staff. A trill is marked with a 'T' in the fifth staff, and a 'U' is present in the eighth staff. The score concludes with a double bar line and a fermata.

VIOLIN I

*cresc.*

*Meno mosso*

*p dolce*

*V simile*

*poco cresc.*

*breit*

*f*

*risoluto ed animato*

*W*

*cresc.*

*ff*

*X 1 rallent.*

*pp*

*Più mosso.*

*sf con forza*

The musical score for Violin I consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a series of sixteenth-note runs. The second staff features a dynamic shift to *p dolce* and a tempo change to *Meno mosso*. The third staff includes the instruction *V simile* and a *poco cresc.* dynamic. The fourth staff is marked *breit* and *f*. The fifth staff is *risoluto ed animato* and *f*. The sixth staff has a *W* marking and *cresc.*. The seventh staff is *ff*. The eighth staff is *X 1 rallent.* and *pp*. The ninth staff is *Più mosso.* and *sf con forza*. The tenth staff continues the *sf con forza* dynamic.





This page of a violin I musical score contains ten staves of music. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various dynamic markings such as *sf*, *ff*, *cresc.*, *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*. Performance instructions include *4 Gtranquillo*, *Vcello*, *p leggiero*, *H dolce cantando*, *rall.*, and *I tranquillo*. The music features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and expressive phrasing with slurs and accents.



VIOLIN I

This page of a Violin I score contains ten staves of music. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is characterized by complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and frequent use of slurs and accents. Dynamics range from *p* (piano) to *ff* (fortissimo). Performance markings include first, second, and third endings, and specific sections labeled P, Q, R, S, T, and U. The score concludes with a double bar line and a fermata.

1 *fz* *fz* *p* *ff* *P*

2 *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz* *p*

3 *sfz* *f* *f* *f* *f* *ff* *fz* *1*

1 *fz* *p* *sfz* *sf* *p* *1*

*ff* *fz* *fz* *fz* *ff* *R* 2 *pp* *3*

*cresc. molto* *ff*

1 *f* *rfz* *rfz* *rfz* *rfz* *rfz* *rfz* *1*

*fz* *p* *f* *rfz* *p* *ff* *f*

*sf* *sf* *sf* *p* *T*

*p* *U*

VIOLIN I

*pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*  
*cresc.*  
**Più mosso.** *sf* *sf* *ff* *cresc.*  
*ff*  
*sf*  
*sf sempre ff*  
**Meno presto.** *sf ff* *ffz*  
*f* *ffz* *dim.* *ff*  
**Y Moderato. dolciss.** *dim.* *sf* *più p*  
**Allegro.** **Z Meno.** *pp* *p dolce*  
*molto cresc.* *ffz* *G.P.* *p* *espr.*  
*più p* *pp* *pizz.*