

Study Guide No. 9: Composers

- Watch the two introductory videos in order to see what you will find in the book and how to use it. Links to all videos are found at <http://www.orch.info> (right-hand column).
- If you would like to check Italian, German, or French terms, expressions, and abbreviations that you want write into a score, please use my *String Player's Dictionary*, which you can order after December 2013 from <http://www.orchestraldictionary.com>.

If you are looking for information about a **particular issue** (for instance, a notational issue) go to Index No. 1, which you will find at the end of the second volume, starting at p. 455, or as a downloadable, searchable file, at <http://www.orch.info>. For instance, if you would like to learn more about harmonics look up the word in the Index. You will find both a reference to Chapter 6.20, which includes technical advice as well as exercises and excerpts, and a reference to Chapter 9.10, which includes explanations of issues of notation and performance practice that should be particularly interesting to composers.

Here is a list of general chapters which might be help you to compose and notate more idiomatically for an orchestral string section:

BOOK

Part 2	the "orchestral mode" = the essence of orchestral playing
Ch. 4.1	classification of orchestral technique
Ch. 5.1–5.2	orchestral sound
Ch. 5.3	bow division
Ch. 5.4–5.5	orchestral articulation
Ch. 5.6	orchestral vibrato
Ch. 5.8	bow strokes—a systematic description
Ch. 6.1	orchestral intonation
Ch. 6.19	<i>portamento</i> and <i>glissando</i> (technique)
Ch. 6.20	harmonics (technique)
Part 7	pizzicato
Part 8	rhythm
Part 9	notation and performance practice

WEBSITE (<http://www.orch.info>):

Ch. 5.34	how to bow a part
Ch. 9.23	<i>divisi</i> notation
Ch. 9.24	misprints in scores, inconsistencies, "improvements"
Part 12	catalogue of resources (especially Ch. 12.9: books, articles, ebooks, web documents)

find many sections in the book that help them to understand how orchestral string playing “works” and how they can write better for an orchestral string section. Composers might find the following sections particularly interesting:

Book:

Ch. 5.1–5.2	orchestral sound
Ch. 5.3	bow division
Ch. 5.4–5.5	orchestral articulation
Ch. 5.8	bow strokes—a systematic description
Ch. 6.1	orchestral intonation
Ch. 6.19	<i>portamento</i> and <i>glissando</i> (technique)
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The Index covers both the material in the book and the material in all the web documents at <http://www.orch.info> (look for the little globe icons).