



# Midair Collisions

for strings

  
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(2010)

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## Performance notes:

*Midair Collisions* can be performed by any string ensemble comprising at least one violin, one viola, and one cello. It is performed as a canon; the entire ensemble begins together, but each member holds the initial fermata approximately 1-2 seconds longer than another. For example, if *Midair Collisions* is performed by string octet, the first staff system may be interpreted as follows (both the order and timings in this list may be modified):

Violin 1 of Quartet 1 holds the first fermata roughly 1-2 seconds, then continues,

Violin 2 of Quartet 1 ---> 3-4"

Viola of Quartet 1 ---> 5-6"

Cello of Quartet 1 ---> 7-8"

Violin 1 of Quartet 2 ---> 9-10"

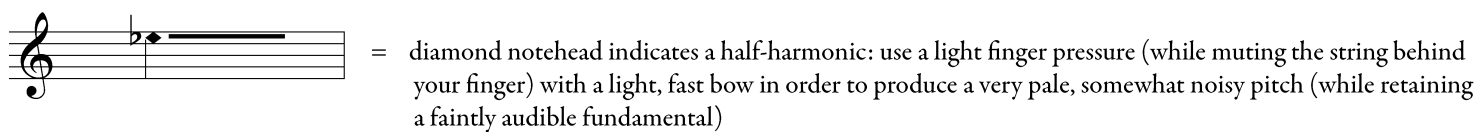
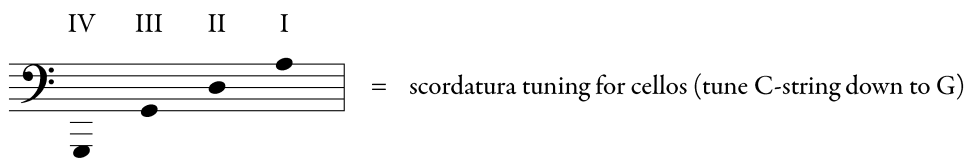
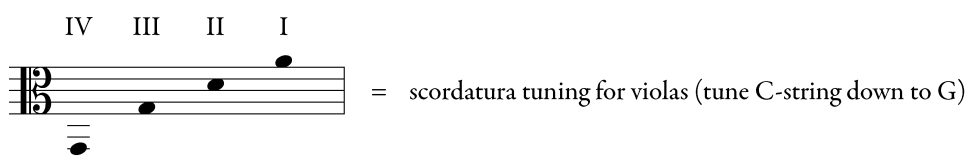
Violin 2 of Quartet 2 ---> 11-12"

Viola of Quartet 2 ---> 13-14"

Cello of Quartet 2 ---> 15-16"

Parts, therefore, will NOT align as written in the score. All violinists, for example, play the same line of music, but not synchronously. Additionally, until the third-to-last staff system, the violins and violas play the same line of music.

No attempt should be made to synchronize parts, but no effort should be made to avoid any synchronization that seems to emerge naturally. Additionally, all violinists and violists should freely perambulate the venue. Music stands should be placed throughout the venue; musicians are encouraged to stop at a music stand, memorize one staff system, and play it while traveling to another music stand. The cellists should sit in a central location but not directly adjacent to each other. If the performing forces are too large or the venue too small to accommodate this spatial element, it can be omitted.



st = sul tasto  
ord = ordinario  
sp = sul ponticello  
msp = molto sul ponticello

arco → clt (→) clb = smooth transition by turning bow gradually. The final motion from clt to clb involves a shift from a horizontal to vertical bow motion, and should be achieved as smoothly as possible, though discontinuities are likely.

