

## String Instrument Vocabulary

**Violin** – The queen of the orchestra. The smallest of the string family. It is held under the chin and plays in the upper register.

**Viola** – The second highest member of the string family. Its music is written in the alto clef and is held under the chin.

**Cello** – The tenor voice of the orchestra. The player sits down to play. Its music is written in the bass clef.

**Double Bass** – The largest and lowest member of the string family. The player stands or sits on a stool to play. Its music is written in the bass clef and sounds an octave lower than is written.

**Arco** -play with the bow

**Pizzicato** - pluck the string with the right hand

**Detache** - play each note with a separate bow, no slurs

**Loire** - a series of connected notes played while the bow moves in one direction

**Staccato** - play each note as if a rest were between them

**Slurred Staccato** - a series of separated notes played while the bow moves in one direction.

**Vibrato** - a rapid fluctuation of pitch

**Double Stop** - playing on two strings at the same time

**Divisi** - part of the section plays the top note; part plays the bottom note

**Sul** - on i.e. *Sul G* = on the G string

**Sul ponticello** - play near the bridge

**Sul tasto** - play over the fingerboard

**Col legno** - play with the wood of the bow

**Con sordini** - play with the mute

**Senza sordini** - without the mute

**Tremolo** - The rapid repetition of a single note, played at the tip of the bow.