

Ensemble Math

Myriad sonic possibilities at your fingertips: Resource's guide to creative instrumental programming

Did you know that a piano quintet – piano plus 2 violins, viola, and cello – can provide you not only piano quintets but eleven other forms of chamber music? Did you know that a piano quintet can be formed by adding a pianist to an existing string quartet, or, by putting four individual strings together with the pianist? This comprehensive [guide](#) reveals every possible combination of chamber music offered by traditional ensemble formats, enabling programmers to think outside the box and potentially offer audiences a more varied, and perhaps more multi-faceted, thematic listening experience.

The members of a **String Quartet** (violin, violin, viola, cello) are capable of playing:

String Quartets

String Trios (violin, viola, cello or violin, violin, viola)

Violin Duos (violin, violin)

Violin and Viola Duos (violin, viola)

Violin and Cello Duos (violin, cello)

Violin solo repertoire

Viola solo repertoire

Cello solo repertoire

The members of a **Piano Quintet** (piano, violin, violin, viola, cello, *or piano plus string quartet*) are capable of playing:

Piano Quartets (piano, violin, viola, cello)

Piano Trios (piano, violin, cello)

String Trios (violin, viola, cello)

Violin Sonatas (piano and violin)

Viola Sonatas (piano and viola)

Cello Sonatas (piano and cello)

Violin and Viola Trios (2 violins and viola)

Violin Duos (2 violins)

Violin and Viola duos (violin and viola)

Violin and Cello duos

Piano solo repertoire

Violin solo repertoire

Viola solo repertoire

Cello solo repertoire

The members of a **Piano Quartet** (piano, violin, viola and cello, *or piano plus string trio*) are capable of playing:

Piano Quartets

Piano Trios (piano, violin, cello)

String Trios (violin, viola, cello)

Violin Sonatas (piano and violin)

Viola Sonatas (piano and viola)

Cello Sonatas (piano and cello)

Violin and Viola duos (violin and viola)

Violin and Cello duos

Piano solo repertoire

Violin solo repertoire

Viola solo repertoire

Cello solo repertoire

The members of a **Piano Trio** (piano, violin, and cello) are capable of playing:

Piano Trios

Violin Sonatas (piano and violin)

Cello Sonatas (piano and cello)

Violin and Cello duos

Piano solo repertoire

Violin solo repertoire

Viola solo repertoire

Cello solo repertoire

The members of a **String Sextet** (violin, violin, viola, viola, cello, cello *or string quartet plus viola and cello*) are capable of playing:

String Sextets

String Quintets (violin, violin, viola, viola, cello)

Cello Quintets (violin, violin, viola, cello, cello)

Cello Quartets (violin, viola, cello, cello)

String Quartets (violin, violin, viola, cello)

String Trios (violin, viola, cello)

Violin Duos (violin, violin)

Violin and Viola Duos (violin, viola)

Violin and Cello Duos (violin, cello)

Cello Duos (cello, cello)

Violin solo repertoire

Viola solo repertoire

Cello solo repertoire

The members of a **String Quintet** (violin, violin, viola, viola, cello *or string quartet plus viola*) are capable of playing:

String Quintets

String Quartets (violin, violin, viola, cello)

String Trios (violin, viola, cello)

Violin Duos (violin, violin)

Violin and Viola Duos (violin, viola)

Violin and Cello Duos (violin, cello)

Violin solo repertoire

Viola solo repertoire

Cello solo repertoire

The members of a **Cello Quintet** (violin, violin, viola, cello, cello *or string quartet plus cello*) are capable of playing:

String Quintets

String Quartets (violin, violin, viola, cello)

String Trios (violin, viola, cello)

Violin Duos (violin, violin)

Violin and Viola Duos (violin, viola)

Violin and Cello Duos (violin, cello)

Cello duos (cello, cello)

Violin solo repertoire

Viola solo repertoire

Cello solo repertoire

The members of a **String Trio** (violin, viola, cello) are capable of playing:

String Trios

Violin Duos (violin, violin)

Violin and Viola Duos (violin, viola)

Violin and Cello Duos (violin, cello)

Violin solo repertoire

Viola solo repertoire

Cello solo repertoire

The most commonly added instruments to these ensembles are the clarinet, flute, horn and double bass. See the Guide to Chamber Music document for suggestions.