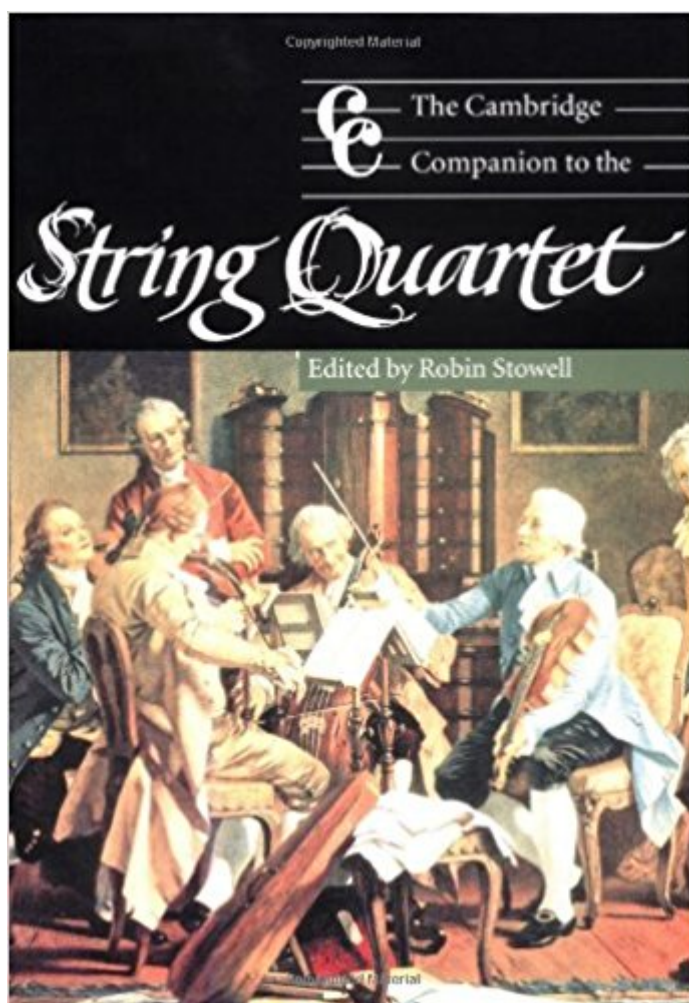


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# The Cambridge Companion To The String Quartet (Cambridge Companions To Music)



## Synopsis

This survey of the string quartet by ten chamber music specialists focuses on four main areas: social and musical background to the genre's development; celebrated ensembles and their significance; and string quartet playing. It reviews aspects of contemporary and historical practice, including "mixed ensembles." Informative appendixes and a full chronology of the mainstream repertory complete this compact guide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Indeed the Companion's readability, together with its broad and timely coverage of topics and its fascinating selection of iconography (notably early photos of string quartets), entice the reader to further explore this music of friends." Notes

An accessible and authoritative survey of the string quartet by ten chamber music specialists, this Companion's carefully structured chapters focus on four main areas: social and musical background to the genre's development; celebrated ensembles and their significance; string quartet playing, including aspects of contemporary and historical performing practice; and the most important repertory, taking into account significant 'mixed ensemble' works involving the string quartet. Informative appendixes, including a full chronology of the mainstream repertory, complete this compact, yet indispensable guide designed for string quartet enthusiasts, both amateur and

professional.

Overall, I found this survey to be comprehensive and enjoyable, although a few of the individual chapters were rather dry. Several of the essays might be a tough nut to crack for the layperson, so you might check out the sample prior to purchase. The book's structure helps maintain interest throughout, with four sections focusing on:

1. Social changes and organological developments: An essay on the string quartet's role in society and one on the developments in string instruments
2. Celebrated ensembles: Two essays by Tully Potter on ensembles and recordings
3. Playing string quartets: Three essays on the art of quartet playing
4. The string quartet repertory: Eight essays on the repertory from pre-Haydn to the present day.

In summary, an interesting collection to which I'll return frequently as a resource. Enjoy!

Very helpful to the non-musician in improving background knowledge about string quartets.  
Enhances the listening experience.

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