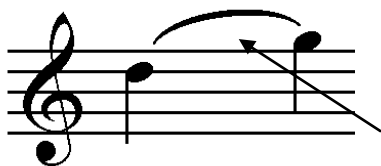




Articulation in music refers to how a composer has indicated they would like a note to be played or sung. You will find directions in the form of written terms or symbols placed above or below notes. Some of the most common types of articulation for strings are explained below:

Legato means smoothly

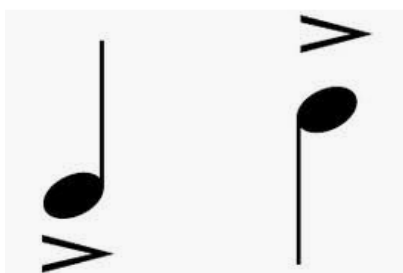


To play smoothly on a string instrument we need to have flat bow hair, and try not to leave any gaps between notes when we change bow direction.

If we see a **slur** marking, we should also play the notes under the slur smoothly.

Staccato means detached or short/spiky

To play staccato on a string instrument we shorten the notes that we play, not by duration, but by leaving a gap between notes. We achieve this by stopping the bow on the string (imagine you're a robot who moves their arm very jerkily).



These symbols are Accents

An accent is an emphasis on the start of a note. We can create these on a string instrument by giving a little push on the bow with our first finger. We can also show accents by moving the bow quicker at the start of the note; this is effective when we are playing quietly.

Tenuto marks mean held

To play tenuto on a string instrument we give a note a slight pressure with our bow. Imagine you are drawing a banana shape in the air with your right hand whilst moving the bow. Tenuto notes are generally slightly separated.

