

*sweeter than wine*  
Performance Notes

String Quartet by Ken Benshoof (2015)

1: Souvenir

2: Postscript

Note for the players:

**Tempo:** much of the piece was composed at quarter-note = 76.  
There were times I worked at tempi as high as 88.

In the end, speed caused confusion (jumbled, crowded) in critical areas of the piece. And it seems reasonable to suppose that 84 could be used for the whole piece. But I can also imagine that changes of tempo from section to section, as well as small acceleration and retardation within sections, might found useful.

I believe these decisions should be entirely in the hands of the players. But I must caution against any tempo which feels like it leans forward. It was my hope to maintain perfect vertical balance throughout the piece.

**Technical:** I have attempted to avoid awkward/difficult left hand situations. Much of it could be described as "first position" level.

On the other hand (the bow hand), rhythm and articulation issues (one might just say "expressive" issues) call for suppleness and depth.

In this vein, I should, perhaps, apologize for what may appear to be an old-person's view of romantic aspects in the piece. My apology is my age. But my memories are fresh. And my passions still alive.

—Ken Benshoof