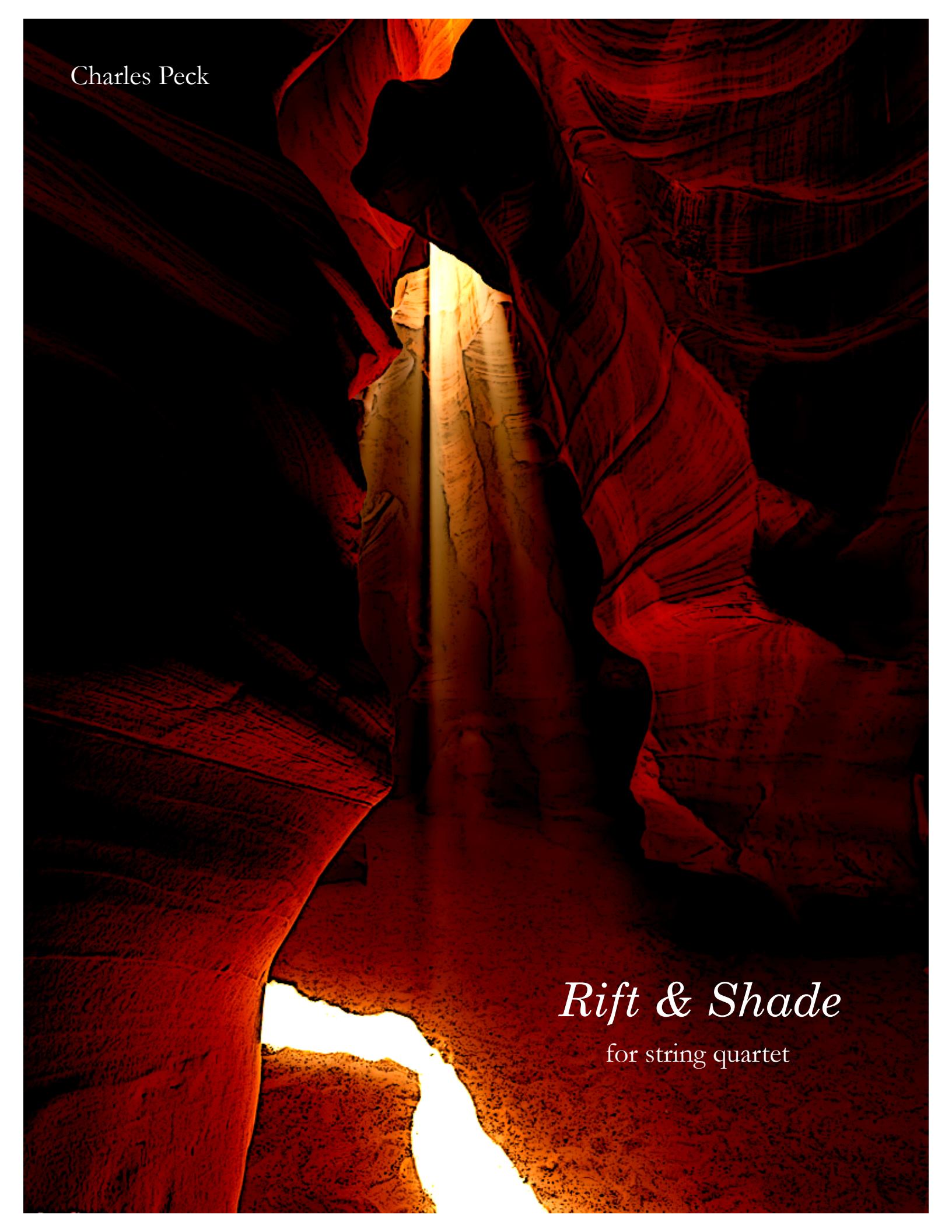


Charles Peck

A photograph of a slot canyon with layered rock walls and light filtering through a narrow opening.

*Rift & Shade*

for string quartet

## Program Notes

The concept for this piece began with an interest in continual and dramatic contrast. As the music was taking shape, the title *Rift & Shade* came to represent a visual manifestation of this idea. With only a small rift in the walls of a cavern, a piercing light and a deep shade can coexist in the same environment. The quartet mimics the stark contrasts of this image musically. In the first movement, the contrast is realized with a rapid alternation between several short gestures, each of which occupies a unique sonic space. In the second movement, the quick timbral changes are replaced by extreme registral contrasts, with the violins playing in their highest possible range, while the cello and viola play in their lowest.

## Arrangement

Viola

Cello

Violin I

Violin II

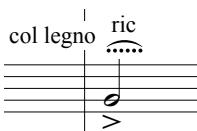
## Duration

8 minutes

## Score Art

Adapted from a photograph by Peter Chong

## Performance Notes



**Col Legno Ricochet** – The exact number of bounces in these gestures is not particularly important (approximately 6 as indicated is fine), however, they must last the entire duration of the indicated pitch. Therefore, longer durations should start with a slower, higher bounce.



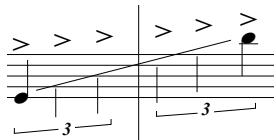
**Natural Harmonic Slide** – Slide smoothly, as with a glissando, between the starting and ending natural harmonics, bringing out all the intervening harmonics along the way. Quarter notes are notated with a filled-in diamond notehead to clarify the rhythm.



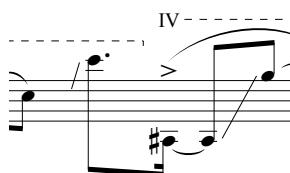
**Jeté Bowing** – These gestures should be performed very percussively. There should be less focus on pitch clarity and more on rhythmic accuracy.



**Glissando** – The slide should always take the full duration of the indicated pitch. In this example, the first glissando will last a quarter note, while the second glissando will last a quarter note plus a sixteenth note (note the tie to a missing notehead).



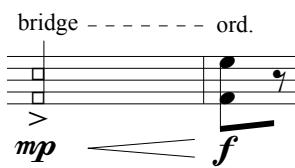
**Glissando with Attacks** – Contrasting to the previous example, where slurs and/or ties to a missing notehead indicate no reattack, this gesture suggests a continuous glissando, while reattacking according to the indicated rhythm.



**Portamento** – The first slide in this example, which is the portamento, shows a distinct break between the previous note and the beginning of the line, as opposed to a glissando, which makes a smooth connection between two notes.



**Col Legno Tratto with Deadened Strings** – Here, the strings are deadened with the left hand to remove the pitch content and create a type of white noise or “shh” sound. For more sound, draw the bow vertically (from sul tasto to sul pont or vice versa) at the same time as the typical horizontal motion.



**Bridge to Ord. Bowing** – In this gesture, the strings are deadened with the left hand and there should be no clear pitch. Over the duration indicated by the dotted line, the bow moves vertically (while still drawing horizontally) from the bridge to the normal playing position. Concordantly, the left hand slowly undeadens the strings until the arrival at the ord. marking.



**Quarter Tones** – These accidentals indicate the pitch is to be raised or lowered by a quarter tone.



Score

*Rift & Shade*

for string quartet

Charles Peck

## I. Rift

Energetic ( $\text{♩} = 132$ )

Violin I      col legno ric. ....

Violin II      col legno ric. ....

Viola      II ord.  $\frac{2}{4}$  ff < ff  $\frac{3}{4}$

Cello      pizz.  $\frac{2}{4}$  arco  $\frac{3}{4}$  col legno ric. ....

Vln. I      ord.  $\frac{2}{4}$  ff pizz. col legno ....

Vln. II      ff pizz. col legno

Vla.      pizz. arco pizz.

Vc.      arco pizz. arco pizz. f < ff

A

Vln. I      II mp

Vln. II      p

Vla.      p pizz.

Vc.      p mp p p

*Rift & Shade*

17

Vln. I

Vln. II III arco col legno pizz. III arco

Vla. mp ff

Vc. mp ff

**B**

22 col legno pizz. col legno

Vln. I pizz. col legno pizz. col legno

Vln. II pizz. col legno pizz. col legno

Vla. II arco pizz. col legno

Vc. f p f p f

27 pizz. 3 pizz. 3 arco col legno ord.

Vln. I p f 3 pizz. 3 arco col legno ord.

Vln. II pizz. p f mfpizz. 3 arco col legno ord.

Vla. II arco 3 pizz. 3 arco col legno ord.

Vc. p f mfpizz. 3 arco col legno ord.

**C**

32

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Rhythmic patterns include sixteenth-note chords, eighth-note pairs, and sixteenth-note runs. Dynamic markings: *pizz.*, *ff*, *f*, *ff ff*, *ff*, *f*, *ff*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *f*, *ff*. Articulation marks like '>' and '*w/ thumb - -*' are present.

37

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Rhythmic patterns continue with sixteenth-note chords and runs. Dynamic markings: *f*, *ff*, *f ff f*, *ff*, *mp*, *arco*, *pp*, *f*, *ff*, *mf*.

**D**

42

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Articulation includes *jeté* (percussive), *arco*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *arco*, *p*, *fp*, *col legno tratto* (deaden strings with left hand, no pitch), *mf*, *p*.

*Rift & Shade*

46

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*jeté* - - -  
*f*  
*mp*

*jeté* - - -  
*f*  
*fp*

*p* ————— *f*

49

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*jeté* - -  
*f*  
*mp*  
*mf*

*jeté* - -  
*mp*  
*f*

*mf* << *f*      *mf* << *f*

52

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

poco s.p. ————— *molto vib.*  
*f*

*jeté* - -  
a little scratchy  
*f*

*ord.*  
*p*

**E**

55

Vln. I      a little scratchy      *mp*

Vln. II      jeté - - - -      *f*

Vla.      a little scratchy - - - -      *f*

Vc.      a little scratchy - - - -

col legno tratto, play on indicated strings  
deaden strings with left hand, no pitch

58

Vln. I      jeté - - - -      *f* 3

Vln. II      jeté - - - -      *f* 3

Vla.      *f*      *mf*

Vc.      *mf* < *f*

poco s.p.

61

Vln. I      *f* express.

Vln. II      poco s.p.      *f* express.

Vla.      *mf* < *f*

Vc.      *mf* < *f*

**F**

Vln. I      *mf*      *mp*

Vln. II      jeté - - - -      3      3

Vla.      *f*

Vc.      *mp*      *p*

*Rift & Shade*

64

Vln. I      *f*

Vln. II      *jeté* ---

Vla.      *mf*

Vc.      *mf* > *mp*

*ord.* > . . . > . . . > . . . > . . .

67

Vln. I      *jeté* ---

Vln. II      *ff*

Vla.      *f*

Vc.      *mf*

70

Vln. I      *norm s.p.*

Vln. II      *norm s.p.*

Vla.      *molto s.p.*

Vc.      *f*

*molto vib.*

**G**

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*ff*

*f*

*p*

74

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

**H**

pizz. s.p.  
arco

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

85

pizz. s.p.  
arco

**I**

pizz.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*Rift & Shade*

90

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*mp* *sfz* *mp* *f* *ffz* *f* *ff*

*mp*

J

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*mf* *f* *ff* *ff*

*arco* *pizz.* *arco s.p.* *ord.* *pizz.* *arco s.p.* *pizz.*

*arco* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

K

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.

*ff* *s.p.* *ff* *ff*

*col legno* *pizz.* *ff* *ff*

*ff* *col legno* *pizz.* *col legno*

*ff* *col legno* *ff* *col legno*

104

Vln. I II ord. pizz. col legno  
*f < ff*

Vln. II II ord. pizz. arco col legno  
*f < ff*

Vla. pizz. arco  
*8va-*

Vc. ord. I pizz. arco  
*f < ff*

108

Vln. I ord. pizz. col legno col legno II ord.  
*f* *ff* *mf* *f < ff*

Vln. II ord. pizz. col legno col legno II ord.  
*f* *ff* *mf* *f <*

Vla. pizz. *mf*  
*pizz.*

Vc. pizz. arco pizz. arco  
*mf* *ff*

112

Vln. I pizz. col legno pizz. col legno ff fff  
*ff* *col legno* *mp* *ff* *fff*

Vln. II ff pizz. col legno ff pizz.  
*ff* *mp* *ff*

Vla. arco pizz. arco pizz. ff fff  
*ff* *mp* *ff* *fff*

Vc. ff pizz. ff 8va-  
*ff* *ff*

## II. Shade

**Freely** ( $\text{♩} = 66$ )

sul pont. (airy sound, lots of bow noise)

Violin I

*mf* gentle, but expressive  
non vib. and sul pont.  
(airy sound, lots of bow noise)

Violin II

*p*

Vln. I

(non vib.) norm vib.

Vln. II

*mf*

L

Vln. I

non vib.

Vln. II

*p*

Vln. I

(s.p.) - - - - ord.

Vln. II

norm vib.

Vla.

Vc.

start bowing on the bridge with the strings deadened, then move smoothly to normal playing position, undeaden strings on the downbeat bridge - - - -

start bowing on the bridge with the strings deadened, then move smoothly to normal playing position, undeaden strings on the downbeat bridge - - - -

*mp* *f* *mp* *mp* *f* *mp*

\*Take note of the clef – one octave above treble clef

**M**

Vln. I

Vln. II change bowing as necessary

Vla. *f sostenuto* *f* *sostenuto* *espress. f* *ord.* *change bowing as necessary*

Vc. *f sostenuto* *p* *f*

20 8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. IV -

Vc.

**N**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. III - II - I - 8va - *pp* *change bowing as necessary* *mf* *pp* *mf* *mf*

Vc.

28.8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mp*

31.8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*f*

*f* *increasingly expressivo*

*f* *increasingly expressivo*

O

IV - - - -

III - - - -

II - - - -

34.8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*ff*

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

III - - - -

IV - - - -

*8va*

37 8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ff

*8va*

IV

ff

ff

40 8

P

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ffff

(8va)

ffff

ffff powerful

ffff powerful

44

ord. - - - slowly change - - - bow on bridge (deaden strings)

Vla.

dim.

ord. - - - slowly change - - - bow on bridge (deadend strings)

Vc.

dim.

pp

pp

