## **Bow Direction**

A Summary of Elizabeth Greene: "Orchestral Bowing Routines"

1. The downbeat is played with a down bow. The down bow is equivalent to the conductor's downbeat.



2. The upbeat (last note of the measure/pick up note) is played with an up bow.



3. If the measure contains an odd number of bowings, then every other measure will begin with a down bow. If the bowing readjusts itself in the space of two measures (sometimes four) no adjustment is made. Take it as it comes.



4. If the pick-up note is slurred over the bar-line to the next measure, it is played down bow.



5. If there are an odd number of notes in a grouping that begins on a weak beat (subdivided: the "&" in eighth note grouping, and the "e" or "a" in sixteenth note groupings), then that grouping will start up bow.





6. If there are an even number of notes in a grouping that begins on a strong beat, then that grouping will start down bow.



## 7. Violin/Viola

Three to four string, slurred arpeggios (2+ consecutive arpeggios, lowest to highest begins down bow).





## Cello/Bass

Three to four string, slurred arpeggios (2+ consecutive arpeggios, lowest to highest begin up bow). The mechanics of playing the instrument takes precedence over bowing pattern.



8. All rhythmic patterns with evenly placed rests are to be played with the greatest accent.





9. In groups of four, even, unslurred notes starting on the beat, the first of the four is played down bow.



- 10. A dotted eighth note followed by a sixteenth note is generally played with one bow (linked bowing). The bow is stopped momentarily between notes. A dotted eighth note followed by a sixteenth note is not linked under the following circumstances:
- a. When the execution or the figure is too fast to require the stopping of the bow which the link requires.
- b. When soft passages require extreme neatness and clarity of sound.
- c. When an extremely loud choppy effect is desired.





11. Chords are usually played down bow regardless of what beat the chord falls on.



12. If rapid string crossing is to be played between two strings, the higher string is played UP BOW on violin/viola. On the cello/bass, the higher string is played DOWN BOW (due to the mechanics of the instrument).

Violin/Viola





