

Principal string players should be active during rehearsals, not just passive instrumentalists. They should:

1. have a technical mastery of the music and be prepared to demonstrate any passage for their sections in rehearsal;
2. decide in consultation with other principals what bow strokes should be used and where in the bow every phrase should be played;
3. indicate important entrances, without being a second conductor;
4. arrive first at rehearsals, since coming later than most sets a bad example;
5. observe other principals during rehearsals and ask them or the conductor about inconsistencies;
6. not play louder and more aggressively than everyone else in an attempt to lead the section;
7. decide how the section should play all *divisi* passages. (Generally speaking, two-way *divisis* are by person and three-way *divisis* are by stand.)
8. make decisions about fingerings and bowings to unify passages; and
9. use body language that reflects interest, commitment, and energy in every rehearsal.
10. in most cases, assistant principals should NOT address the section at any time unless the principal or conductor specifically asks them to do so.