



Antonio Vivaldi

March 4, 1678 – July 28, 1741

Antonio Vivaldi was born in Venice on March 4, 1678. An earthquake rocked the city the day he was born, which may have been why Vivaldi was baptized immediately by the midwife. His official baptism took place in a church two months after his birth.

Antonio Vivaldi's father was a barber and a professional violinist. He taught Antonio to play and they toured Venice, playing together.

Vivaldi entered the priesthood but was excused from saying Mass due to poor health, including asthma. He stepped away from his liturgical duties but remained a member of the priesthood.

Vivaldi became the master of the violin at the orphanage Pio Ospedale della Pietà in 1703. He worked there for several years. After moving to new positions and cities, Vivaldi returned to Venice in 1725. This same year, *The Four Seasons* was published in Amsterdam.

In his later years, Vivaldi moved to Vienna, where he died in poverty and was buried at Karlskirche Church.

The Four Seasons

The Four Seasons is a group of four violin concertos by Antonio Vivaldi. Each concerto represents a season of the year. They were written around 1721 and were published in 1725.

The concertos are Program Music - they have sonnets that are meant to accompany each season. They have been included for you below.

Spring

Springtime is upon us.
The birds celebrate her return with festive song,
and murmuring streams are
softly caressed by the breezes.
Thunderstorms, those heralds of Spring, roar,
casting their dark mantle over heaven,
Then they die away to silence,
and the birds take up their charming songs once more.

Largo

On the flower-strewn meadow, with leafy branches
rustling overhead, the goat-herd sleeps,
his faithful dog beside him.

Allegro

Led by the festive sound of rustic bagpipes,
nymphs and shepherds lightly dance
beneath the brilliant canopy of spring.

Summer

Under a hard Season, fired up by the Sun
Languishes man, languishes the flock and burns the pine
We hear the cuckoo's voice;
then sweet songs of the turtledove and finch are heard.
Soft breezes stir the air, but threatening
the North Wind sweeps them suddenly aside.
The shepherd trembles,
fearing violent storms and his fate.
Adagio e piano - Presto e forte
The fear of lightning and fierce thunder
Robs his tired limbs of rest
As gnats and flies buzz furiously around.

Presto

Alas, his fears were justified
The Heavens thunder and roar and with hail
Cut the head off the wheat and damages the grain.

Autumn

Celebrates the peasant, with songs and dances,
The pleasure of a bountiful harvest.
And fired up by Bacchus' liquor,
many end their revelry in sleep.

Adagio molto

Everyone is made to forget their cares and to sing and dance
By the air which is tempered with pleasure
And (by) the season that invites so many, many
Out of their sweetest slumber to fine enjoyment

Allegro

The hunters emerge at the new dawn,
And with horns and dogs and guns depart upon their hunting
The beast flees and they follow its trail;
Terrified and tired of the great noise
Of guns and dogs, the beast, wounded, threatens
Languidly to flee, but harried, dies.

Winter

To tremble from cold in the icy snow,
In the harsh breath of a horrid wind;
To run, stamping one's feet every moment,
Our teeth chattering in the extreme cold

Largo

Before the fire to pass peaceful,
Contented days while the rain outside pours down.

Allegro

We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously,
for fear of tripping and falling.
Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and,
rising, hasten on across the ice lest it cracks up.
We feel the chill north winds course through the home
despite the locked and bolted doors...
this is winter, which nonetheless
brings its own delights.

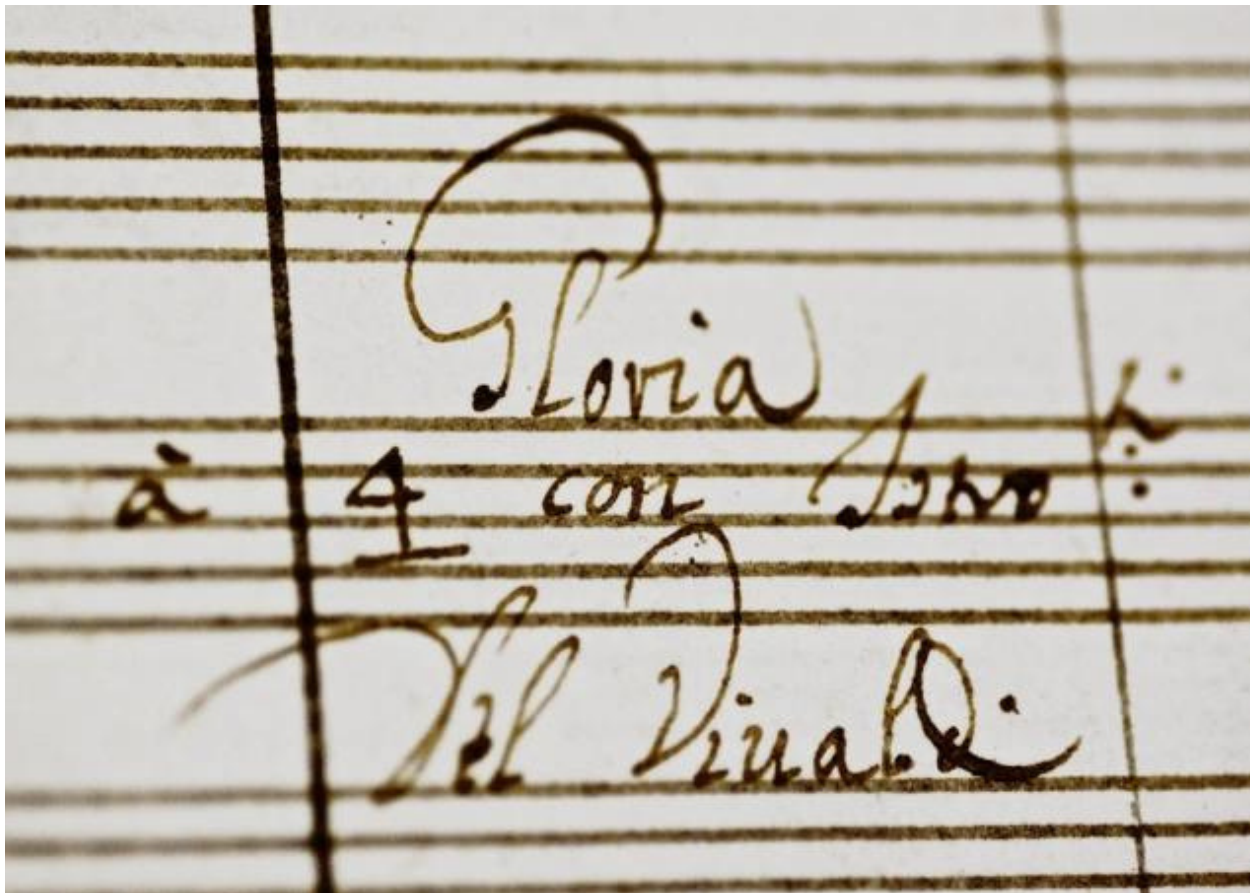
Classical Pieces

Week 1 - "La Primavera" (Spring)

Week 2 - "L'estate" (Summer)

Week 3 - "L'autunno" (Autumn)

Week 4 - "L'inverno" (Winter)



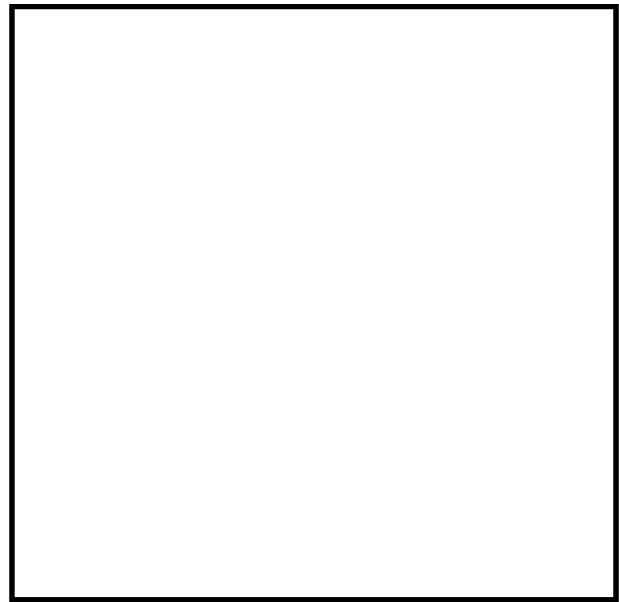
Composer Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Composer Fun Facts:



Instruments Used: _____

Famous Compositions: _____

Further Study:
