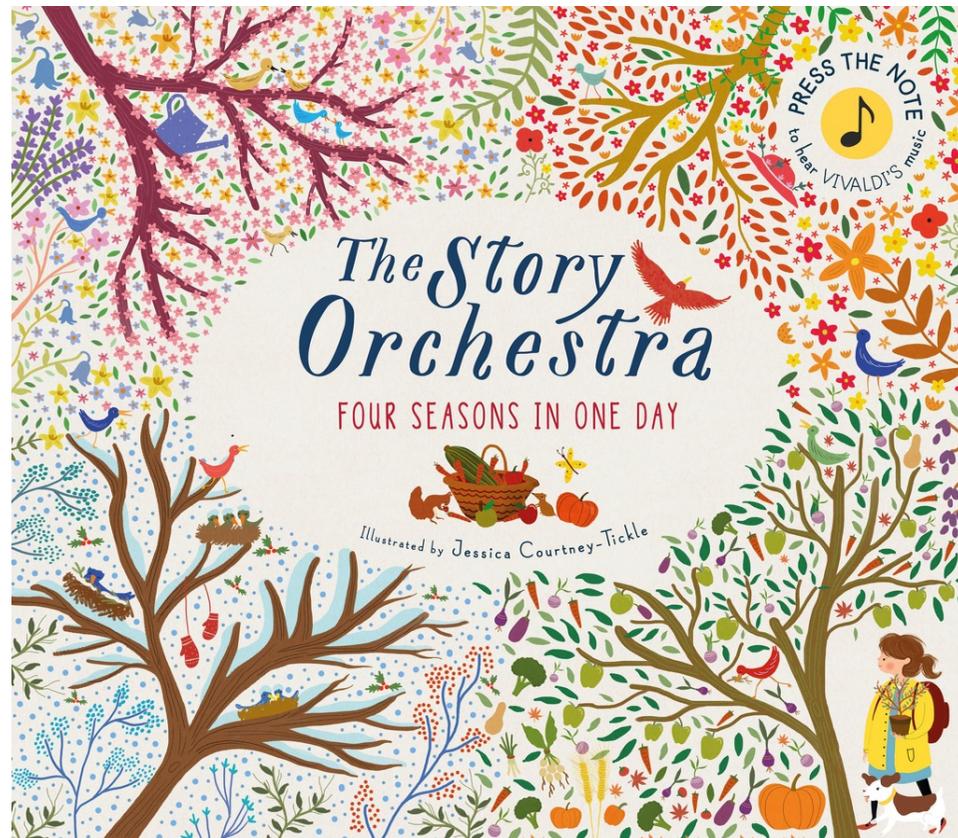


Session 2 - Listening and appraising



The Four Seasons is a group of four violin concertos that depict the seasons of the year. They are some of the most impressive examples of **program music** from the Baroque Period. Vivaldi was inspired to compose his concertos by some paintings of the seasons by Marco Ricci. Vivaldi also wrote a sonnet for each season.

Each **concerto** is made up of 3 movements (sections). The movements all follow the pattern fast-slow-fast. Vivaldi wrote the music to be played on violins, violas, cellos, double basses and a harpsichord (a Baroque keyboard instrument).

Program music - Music that tells a story.

Concerto - A piece of music composed for a solo instrument and orchestra.

Spring

The first movement celebrates the start of spring with singing birds, murmuring streams, and soft breezes. Listen out for the violin's trills, chirping "staccato" notes and downward runs imitating beautiful birdsong. Also see if you can hear a barking dog!



Staccato - notes played sharply and separately from each other

Run - A long stretch of notes played quickly. The notes can go up or down.

Listen to Spring Movement I

1. What do you like about the movement?
2. What does the music remind you of?
3. Can you hear any specific instruments?
4. Is the music loud or soft?

Spring Movement I (Allegro)

0.32-1.07 listen to a chorus of birds



1.45-2.11 listen to a sudden thunder storm with lightening



Spring Movement II (Largo)

Listen to the beginning of the slow movement 2 to hear the constant barking of the shepherd's dog. It's a short note, followed by a slightly longer, louder note: 'woof-WOOF'



Summer

EBORACUM
BAROQUE



The first two movements of Summer remind you of the lying in the suffocating heat of summer. In the third movement there is a great storm. Listen out for the cuckoo in the first movement, the flies and wasps in the second movement and the violent thunderstorm in the third movement.



Listen to Summer Movement III (Presto)

1. What does the music remind you of?
2. Is the music calm or busy?
3. Is the music fast or slow?
4. Is the cuckoo's voice a high instrument or a low instrument?
5. Do the violin's runs go upwards or downwards? Why do you think this is?

Summer Movement I (Allegro)

First movement:

1.04-1.42 Listen to the cuckoo.



Summer Movement III (Presto)

Third movement:

Great storm clouds fill the sky.



Autumn

In Autumn we hear the villagers dancing and singing to celebrate harvest time. Listen out for the happy, dancing tunes and then for the slow, lazy **chords** of the sleeping that follows.



Chord - more than one note played at the same time.

Listen to Autumn Movement I (Allegro)

Questions

1. Is this movement fast or slow? Why?
2. Is the music calm or busy?
3. Does the music make you feel happy or sad?
4. Think of a word to describe the mood of the music.

Autumn Movement I (Allegro)

First movement (beginning) - the happy
dance of villagers



Autumn Movement II (Adagio)

Second movement (beginning) - lazy,
sleepy chords



Winter

Winter opens with harsh winds, chattering teeth and fast **running** notes that depict running and stamping feet in the cold weather. In the second movement there is also the cosy feeling of sitting by the fire with the rain dripping outside. Listen out for the violins' **plucked strings** that imitate the sound of raindrops.



Run - A long stretch of notes played quickly. The notes can go up or down.

Plucked strings - the strings of a violin are plucked with the forefinger instead of with a bow. This creates a short, delicate sound.

Listen to Winter Movement I (Allegro non molto)

1. Are the runs fast or slow?
2. What does the music remind you of?
3. When is the music soft and when is it loud? What does this show?
4. How does the music make you feel?
calm/ panicked/ happy/ worried

Winter Movement I (Allegro non molto)

0.35-0.56 very fast running notes, imitating running feet, to get away from the cold.



2.25-2.54 short, staccato notes of chattering teeth



Winter Movement II (Largo)

Sitting by the warmth of a fire

Listen for the constant plucked-string
raindrops

