

THE FOUR SEASONS

Antonio Vivaldi

SPRING

Allegro

Welcome the beauty of joyous Springtime
With crocus and primrose and sweet columbine.
Songbirds warble in cacophonous choirs
While nesting in woodlands and thorny sweetbriers.

Zephyr's spring breezes warm babbling brooks
Where willows shade ferns in rockery nooks.

Darkening skies and a thick black cloud
Announce lightning and thunder, brilliant and loud!
Warm winds and rain shake off winter's freeze
While birds fly high on the gentle spring breeze.

Largo

To the soothing rustle of fresh, green leaves,
A sheepdog keeps watch while his master sleeps.

Allegro

Nymphs and shepherds, come dance to the sounds
Of festive bagpipes playing bourées and rounds!
What pleasure and joy the springtime brings!
To its bounty and beauty, each nesting-bird sings.

SUMMER

Allegro non molto - Allegro

The sun blazes down with relentless heat
Parching flora and fauna while rivers retreat.
Thirsty cuckoos, finch and turtle dove
Sing bravely from dry, brittle branches above.

While Zephyr blows sweetly refreshing the air,
Boreas rages on without a care
For the shepherd who fears the oncoming storm.
The heavens will open by break of dawn!

Adagio – Presto – Adagio

The shepherd and sheepdog are wrenched from their slumber
By blinding lightning and a clap of thunder.
Their sleep is disturbed by the buzzing and wheezing
Of wasps and mosquitos annoying and teasing!

Presto

Awakened to battle the eye of the storm,
Shepherd and flock seek a shelter at dawn.
The tall ripened crops are laid flat by the hail
And farmers look on in fear crops will fail.

AUTUMN

Allegro

The peasants are happy to break harvest bread,
Rejoicing an abundance that'll keep them well fed!
The ripe, purple grapes will be crushed into juice
Are transformed into wine which they drink... nay, abuse!

Adagio molto

Sweet nectar of Bacchus draws drunkards to sleep
Dreaming fine wine and women while slumbering deep.
Moonlight caresses the ripe, golden hay,
Dreamers oblivious to the break of day.

Allegro (The Hunt)

Hunters arise for the chase at dawn.
Guns, dogs at the ready, now sound the horn!
A shy deer is terrified and runs for her life,
Fleeing the commotion her fears ran rife.
Bang, bang! She staggers and attempts to arise.
But, mortally wounded, she falls down and dies.

WINTER

Allegro non molto

Feet freezing cold in the crisp white snow,
Shivering as the bitter winds blow,
Teeth chattering noisily despite furs replete,
Run to keep warm in the bitter sleet!

Largo

At home in the hearth a wood fire roars
While outside the cold rain incessantly pours.

Allegro

Walking on ice with no confidence, just fear!
Oops! Crashing down and, shedding a tear,
Scramble up fast and, quick, cross the lake.
Imagine what would happen if the ice should brake!
Safe back at home behind bolted door,
Hear Boreas and Sirocco fight winter wind's war.
But winter, in fact, offers pleasures galore:
Snow, wind and ice storms that we all adore!