

The Fabulous Four

VIVALDI Information Sheet

- Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
- Italian Baroque composer, priest, and virtuoso violinist
- Born in Venice, Italy
- Nicknamed *il Prete Rosso* (the red priest) because of his red hair.
- His best known work is a series of violin concertos (musical work written for a solo instrument and accompanied by an orchestra) known as *The Four Seasons*.
 - There are four concertos in this work: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter
 - At the time Vivaldi wrote this work, the idea of depicting nature through music was revolutionary.
 - Vivaldi wrote four sonnets (poems) to accompany the music where he described the scenes depicted in each. Included in the music were representations of the following:
 - Flowing creeks
 - Singing birds
 - Barking dogs
 - Buzzing mosquitoes
 - Crying shepherds
 - Storms
 - Drunken dancers
 - Silent nights
 - Hunting parties
 - Frozen landscapes
 - Ice-skating children
 - Warming winter fires