The Four Seasons

SLSO Learning Lab

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

For Music Educators

For grades 3–6

Objectives

Students will:

- Compare and contrast the four seasons
- Cite musical evidence to support their interpretation of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*
- Explore Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* through student-created movement

Standards

Missouri Music Learning Standards

- MU: Re8A.3-6a
- MU: Cn10A.3-6a
- MU: Cn11A.3-6a

Illinois Music Learning Standards

- MU: Re8.1.3-6
- MU: Cn10.1.3-6
- MU: Cn11.1.3-6

Materials

- Recordings of the following from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*:
  - Summer, third movement
  - Autumn, first movement
  - Winter, first movement
  - Spring, first movement
- Drawing and writing supplies (optional)

Vocabulary

- Concerto

Extension

- Team up with the science teacher when students are learning about habitats and behavioral adaptations in science class

Assessment

Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* (3-point rubric)
Student successfully:

- Creates a list of accurate traits for each of the four seasons
- Defends their interpretation of the music citing specific musical examples
- Creates and performs developmentally appropriate movements that mirror the music

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A concerto is a piece of music written for a solo instrument with orchestral accompaniment. Composer Antonio Vivaldi wrote a set of four concertos for violin and orchestra called The Four Seasons. Each concerto was inspired by a different season: summer, autumn, winter, and spring.

Selected movements from Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*

- Summer, third movement
- Autumn, first movement
- Winter, first movement
- Spring, first movement

Guess the Season

Make a list of traits that describe each of the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Think about what happens in nature and what the weather is like in each season. How do people act and what do they do during each season? What are some images, sounds, or emotions associated with each season? Use your list of traits to compare and contrast the four seasons. Then have an adult or a friend play the above listening selections from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, but don't let them tell you which season you are listening to. Try to guess from the sound of the music which season Vivaldi's music represents. It's okay if you do not guess correctly. Everyone interprets music differently. What did you hear in the music that made you think of the season you chose?

Moving Through the Seasons



Share how each of the four seasons makes you feel. Then create a movement that matches how you feel about or how you might move during each of the four seasons. Listen to the musical selection for that season and perform your movement along with the music.

- Do your movements match the music? Why or why not?
- If not, what movements might match the music?



Science Extension!

1. Pick a season.
2. Create an original imaginary animal and draw a picture of it.
3. Draw the animal's natural habitat (where the animal lives). Incorporate different characteristics of the season in your drawing. For example, if your animal lives in a forest in Missouri during the winter, everything might be covered in snow or ice.
4. Label at least one physical characteristic your animal has that helps them adapt to their environment. For example, an animal living in Missouri in the winter might need to have a fur coat to keep them warm.
5. Label at least one behavioral adaptation (an action an animal takes to survive in their environment) that helps your animal adapt to their environment. For example, maybe your animal only hunts for food in the afternoon during the winter months, because it's often the warmest part of the day.
6. Share your animal with your family and friends. Don't forget to explain the animal's physical characteristics and the behavioral adaptations that you've included in your drawing.



Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) was an Italian composer, violinist, teacher, and Catholic priest. He was born in Venice in 1678. At the age of fifteen he joined the priesthood. For much of his adult life, he served as the music director at an orphanage for young girls. It was there that he wrote a lot of his music. He composed many pieces for violin, which he used when teaching violin to his students. He also wrote religious choral pieces for the school choir to sing at church. Vivaldi's most famous work is a collection of four violin concertos called *Le Quattro Stagioni*, or *The Four Seasons*. Each concerto is inspired by a sonnet (a type of poem) and vividly depicts the mood and feeling of one of the four seasons.