

“Spring” from *The Four Seasons*

Name _____

I can listen to and describe music.

The concerto was very popular in the 1600s and 1700s. The concerto is a piece featuring a solo instrument that is accompanied by an orchestra. Eventually, the accompaniment was played on the piano. Solo instruments commonly featured were violin, flute, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, and French horn. The part played by the soloist was usually very difficult and showy.



Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) was a composer and teacher in Venice, Italy. Still today, his best-known music is a set of four violin concertos that he titled *The Four Seasons*. Each concerto represents a season of the year and was accompanied by a set of poems possibly written by Vivaldi himself. His music tells the story of the poems, which was unusual at the time.

Let’s think about the first (of 3) movements in “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.*



Predict:










1. What notes, rhythms and dynamics (loudness) do you think Vivaldi used to sound like bird calls?

- Notes: _____
- Rhythms: _____
- Dynamics: _____

2. What notes and dynamics do you think Vivaldi used to sound like a thunderstorm?

- Notes: _____
- Dynamics: _____

Follow the map as you listen to the first movement of “Spring.” <https://youtu.be/YnDLlajMxyo> (0:00-3:21)

0:10		Group plays main theme – <i>forte</i> (loud), then <i>piano</i> (soft) <i>f p</i>
0:39		Soloist starts bird calls + other violins
1:10		Group – <i>f</i>
1:17		Soloist starts murmuring stream – <i>p</i> 
1:39		Group – <i>f</i>
1:46		Thunderstorm! 
2:10		Group – minor
2:18		Soloist starts new bird calls and group joins in
3:01		Group – <i>f p</i> with <i>ritardando</i> (gradually slower)

3. Were your predictions correct? Be ready to talk with others about your predictions.

Now watch the Line Rider animation this movement. https://youtu.be/Df89_IrTotA (1:51)

4. Do you think Antonio Vivaldi would like that his music is the soundtrack of this animated ride? Why or why not?

5. Would you rather watch the Line Rider or a performance by an orchestra? Give one reason why you liked one more than the other.

I would rather watch _____ *because* _____
