



Four Seasons

This was composed in 1723 and is composed in four parts, each part representing a different season: winter, spring, summer, autumn. The *Spring Movement I: Allegro* is especially recognizable to modern audiences.

The pieces are violin concertos. In a concerto a solo instrument, in this case the violin, is accompanied by an orchestra, the soloist and the orchestra creating contrast in the music. This composition helped to define the genre of concertos.

Other famous pieces by this composer include *Gloria* and *Con Alla Rustica in G*



The Christmas Concerto

Part of a large concerto of 12 sections, this is the most famous.

This was written to be played during a Christmas eve celebration in 1690 for the composer's patron, Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni. It was written to be played by an ensemble containing mostly stringed instruments.

Other famous pieces by this composer include *Concerto Grosso Opus 6*, and *Trio Sonata Opus 2*.



Music for the Royal Fireworks

This was composed in 1749 for King Henry II of England to celebrate the end of the War of Austrian Succession (also known as the Seven Years War and the French and Indian War in North America). It was to be played as fireworks were set off over the river Thames. It was played primarily by wind instruments, but was later scored for a full orchestra.

Other famous works by this composer include *Water Music* and the *Messiah*.



The Fairy Queen

This was written in 1692, just three years before the composer's untimely death at the age of thirty-five. This piece is an opera based on Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The music is played by recorders, oboes, kettledrums, strings, and a harpsichord. It was popular at the time it was first produced, but then was lost, to finally re-emerge in the early 20th century.

Other famous pieces by this composer include *Dido & Aeneas*, *Dioclesian*, and *King Arthur*.



Brandenburg Concerto no. 3

This was composed in 1721 for Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg, never played, and then promptly forgotten. The

Brandenburg Concertos were rediscovered in 1849 and published to great acclaim. Now they are considered some of the best orchestral compositions of the Baroque era. The concertos can be played with a full orchestra or as chamber music with one instrument taking each part.

Other famous pieces by this composer include *Mass in B minor*, *The Well Tempered Clavier*, and *Air on a G String*.



Canon in D

This was probably composed sometime in the 1690's. It was lost for centuries and rediscovered in the early 20th century. It is one of the most recognizable pieces of music in the world, having been adapted for popular music, commercials, and movie music repeatedly. Listen to Pet Shop Boys "Go West", Coolio's "C U when U Get There" or Green Day's "Basket Case".

It also makes the play list on nearly every classical music CD ever created and is often played at weddings.

Other famous pieces by this composer include *Chaconne in F minor* and *Toccatina in E Minor*.

Baroque Music Cards

Print these music cards and famous pieces by the composers onto white card stock. Cut the cards out on the solid lines.

Help your kids become familiar with these pieces and composers by playing matching games, sorting the cards, and quizzing over them.

1. Lay the cards face up in front of the students. Play one of the famous compositions for the students to listen to. The music can easily be found online. Have the students match the composer and the composer's famous piece to the music that is playing.
2. After the student can identify the composers and pieces, play another famous piece by the composers, listed at the bottom of the cards, and see if the students can recognize the style of that composer and identify whose music is being played.