

Musical Sketching



“Winter”
by Antonio Vivaldi

Antonio Vivaldi wrote a collection of violin concertos called “The Four Seasons” hundreds of years ago in the early 1700s. Vivaldi wrote each song in this collection to illustrate the four seasons and he also based each song on a sonnet (poem). The poems were originally written in Latin so when they were translated into English, they no longer rhyme, but they help us know what Vivaldi was painting musically. Vivaldi was one of the first musical composers to use music to tell a story. Music that tells a story is called Program Music.

In this activity, you will be listening to the 3 movements of Vivaldi’s “Winter.” As you listen, draw what you hear. Use your imagination! There are no right or wrong answers! You can also read the poems to help inspire your drawings! Have fun!



Movement 1

Fast (Allegro con molto)

To tremble from cold in the icy snow,
In the harsh breath of a horrid wind;
To run, stamping one's feet every moment,
Our teeth chattering in the extreme cold

Movement 2

Slow (Largo)

Before the fire to pass peaceful
Contented days while the rain
outside pours down



Movement 3

Fast (Allegro)

We tread the icy path slowly & cautiously
For fear of tripping and falling
Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the
ground and rising, hasten on across the ice
lest it cracks up.
We feel the chill north winds course
through the home.
Despite the locked & bolted doors
This is winter, which nonetheless
brings its own delights

