



## Antonio Vivaldi 1678-1741

Baby Vivaldi was born in Venice Italy and spent most of his life working there. Since he was a young boy, Vivaldi suffered from asthma, but this did not stop him from learning to play the violin, composing or taking part in musical activities. In 1693, at the age of 15, he began studying to become a priest. He was ordained in 1703, aged 25. He was soon nicknamed "The Red Priest", because of his red hair. Not long after his ordination, in 1704, he left his priestly duties because of his bad asthma attacks.

In September 1703, Vivaldi became master of violin at an [orphanage](#) called the Pio [Ospedale della Pietà](#) (Devout Hospital of Mercy) in Venice .While Vivaldi is famous as a composer, he was also as very good violinist . The orphanage where Vivaldi worked was for girls and they all learned to play music instruments very well. In fact most of Vivaldi's compositions that we play today were written just for these same girls!

He also composed lots of music for the Church with Choir and orchestra as well as chamber music and Operas. There was a popular style at the time called Concerto Grosso: it shows off a small group of solo players, set against the full orchestra. Vivaldi wrote over 400 of these pieces and some have very descriptive titles. The Four Seasons is the best example where each section describes what each season would sound like!

Vivaldi's music is part of the *Baroque* style of music. Baroque music uses quite a lot of [ornamentation](#). This word means lots of fancy shimmering effects and were usually improvised right on the spot by the performer. For the first time in music history, instruments soloists instead of singers a cappella (singing without any background music) became important during the Baroque Era.

