

'Quattro Stagioni'- 'The Four Seasons by A. Vivaldi: Translated poems and tempo directions

La Primavera (Spring)

Opus 8, No. 1, in E Major



I. Allegro {quickly and brightly)

Festive Spring has arrived, The birds salute it with their happy song. And the brooks, caressed by little Zephyrs, Flow with a sweet murmur. The sky is covered with a black mantle, And thunder, and lightning, announce a storm. When they are silent, the birds Return to sing their lovely song.

II. *Largo e pianissimo sempre*— {deliberately slow and always quietly} And in the meadow, rich with flowers, To the sweet murmur of leaves and plants.

The goatherd sleeps, with his faithful dog at his side.

III. Danza pastorale. Allegro— {quickly, dance-like)To the festive sound of pastoral bagpipes,
Dance nymphs and shepherds,
At Spring's brilliant appearance. L'Estate (Summer) Opus 8, No. 2, in G minor



I. **Allegro non molto** {briskly, but not extremely quick}

Under the heat of the burning summer sun, Languish man and flock; the pine is parched. The cuckoo finds its voice, and suddenly, The turtledove and goldfinch sing. A gentle breeze blows, But suddenly, the north wind appears. The shepherd weeps because, overhead, Lies the fierce storm, and his destiny.

II. *Adagio*; *Presto*—{staring slowly and becoming very, very fast}

His tired limbs are deprived of rest By his fear of lightning and fierce thunder,

And by furious swarms of flies and hornets.

III. **Presto**—{rapdily}

Alas, how just are his fears, Thunder and lightening fill the Heavens, and the hail Slices the tops of the corn and other grain.



L'Autunno (Autumn)

Opus 8, No. 3, in F Major



 Allegro {brightly and quickly}
 The peasants celebrate with dance and song,

The joy of a rich harvest. And, full of Bacchus's liquor, They finish their celebration with sleep.

II. *Adagio molto*—{slowly but with movement}

Each peasant ceases his dance and song. The mild air gives pleasure,

And the season invites many To enjoy a sweet slumber.

III. *Allegro*—{brightly and quickly}

The hunters, at the break of dawn, <mark>go</mark> to the hunt.

With horns, guns, and dogs they are off,

The <mark>beast flees</mark>, and they <mark>follow its</mark> trail.

Already fearful and exhausted by the great noise,

Of guns and dogs, and wounded, The exhausted beast tries to flee, but dies.

L'Inverno (Winter)

Opus 8, No. 4, in F minor



I. Allegro non molto {briskly- but not too quickly}
Frozen and trembling in the icy snow, In the severe blast of the horrible wind, As we run, we constantly stamp our feet,
And our teeth chatter in the cold.

II. *Largo*{very, very slowly}

To <mark>spend happy and quiet days near the fire</mark>,

While, outside, the rain soaks hundreds.

III. Allegro-{quickly}

We walk on the ice with slow steps, And tread carefully, for fear of falling. Symphony, If we go quickly, we slip and fall to the ground.

Again we run on the ice,

Until it cracks and opens. We hear, from closed doors, Sirocco, Boreas, and <mark>all the winds in</mark> battle.

This is winter, but it brings joy!