

# The Works of Antonio Vivaldi

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Seed  
Learning





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Text Audio

## Who was Antonio Vivaldi?

Who was Antonio Vivaldi? He was a composer, violinist, and music teacher. He was also a priest! But he is most famous for his music. Many people say he is one of the greatest Baroque composers. His best-known works include *Gloria*, RV 589 and *The Four Seasons*.

Vivaldi had many jobs including priest. ➔

Vivaldi wrote music and played the violin.





A statue of Vivaldi in a church in Venice

Vivaldi wrote over 800 works. But people forgot or lost nearly all his music after he died in 1741! Luckily, Vivaldi's lost works were later found, and we can still enjoy them today.

Vivaldi's music was lost for many years! ➡



Venice (Venezia) is a city in the north of Italy.



↑ Vivaldi's father was a barber.



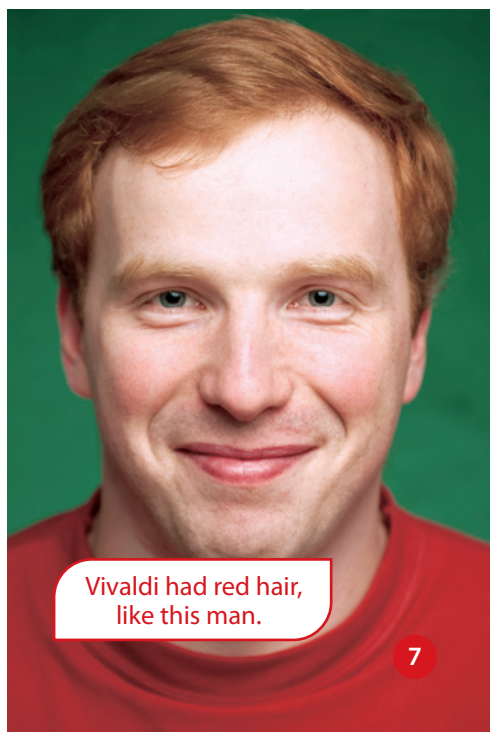
← A violinist in action

Vivaldi was born on March 4, 1678 in Venice, Italy. His father, Giovanni, was a violinist and a barber. Giovanni taught his son how to play the violin. They traveled around Venice playing the violin together.

When Vivaldi was fifteen, he started training to be a priest. He became a priest at the age of twenty-four. People called him “il prete rosso”—the Red priest. This was because he had red hair. However, his health was not good, so he spent most of his time writing music.



Vivaldi spent a lot of time writing music.



Vivaldi had red hair, like this man.





Now a hotel, this building used to be the Ospedale della Pietà.



Venice is famous for its canals.

In 1703, Vivaldi started work as a violinist at the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice, a home for children with no parents. He taught music to the girls who lived there. He wrote many pieces of music while he was working at the Pietà.

Opera was very popular in Venice in the early 1700s. Vivaldi began to write operas as a way to make extra money. He was good at it. It is possible that Vivaldi wrote around 94 operas, but we only have 50 of them today.

Sadly, Vivaldi's music became less and less popular. At the end of his life, Vivaldi had no money.



Vivaldi died in the city of Vienna, Austria.

Opera singers should have a strong voice.





# Reading Quiz

Choose the best answer.

1. What instrument did Vivaldi's father play?  
(a) Violin                      (b) Viola                      (c) Cello
  
2. Why did people call Vivaldi "the red priest"?  
(a) He liked red clothes.  
(b) He played a red violin.  
(c) He had red hair.
  
3. What is NOT important in *Gloria in D Major, RV 589*?  
(a) The violin  
(b) The piano  
(c) The oboe

Circle T (true) or F (false).

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 4. Vivaldi was very rich when he died.                | T | F |
| 5. Vivaldi's music was always popular.                | T | F |
| 6. In Vivaldi's "Spring," the violas sound like dogs. | T | F |

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (F) 6. (T)

Key



Audio

## New Words



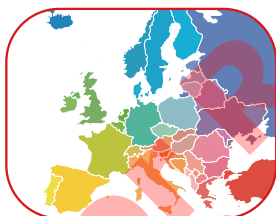
- **baroque** (adj.) This church is in the **baroque** style.

★ relating to European art and music of the 1600s and 1700s



- **concerto** (n.) The woman is playing a violin **concerto**!

★ a piece of music for a certain musical instrument and an orchestra



- **divide** (v.)

This map uses many colors to **divide** the countries of Europe.

★ to separate into different parts



- **festival** (n.)

I saw dancing at a **festival** in Mexico.

★ an event with music, movies, dancing, or cultural activities



■ **movement** (n.) A **movement** in music is like a chapter in a book.

★ one of the main parts of a long piece of classical music



■ **opera** (n.) An **opera** is full of beautiful songs.

★ a musical play in which the words are sung



■ **religious** (adj.) There are many shapes with a **religious** meaning.

★ of or relating to religion



■ **tempo** (n.) Lots of pop music has a fast **tempo**.

★ the speed at which music is sung or played



## Baroque Era

1600-1750

The Baroque era began in Italy in the 1600s, and then spread to other parts of Europe. The era developed painting, sculpture, architecture, decorative arts, and music in a new way.

1678 - 1741

**Antonio Vivaldi** was born in Italy. He was an influential Baroque composer.



1685 - 1750

**Johann Sebastian Bach** was born in Germany. His death in 1750 was seen as the end of the Baroque period.



1685 - 1759

German-British composer **George Frideric Handel** was born in Germany, but moved to England in 1712.



## Classical Era

1750-1830

The Classical era created many of the standards that composers follow today. The era introduced basic melodies and emphasized form and function.

1756 - 1791

Austrian composer **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** was an influential composer of the Classical era.



1732 - 1809

**Joseph Haydn** was born in Austria. He was one of the most prolific Classical composers.



- Baroque era works are elaborate and complex.
- The era introduced a new style.
- Baroque artists wanted to express wonder and amazement.
- Other important composers: Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) and Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751)

- Music of the Classical era was less complicated than in the Baroque era.
- Music became more accessible to ordinary people thanks to new concert halls.
- Classical music composers express multiple emotions in their works.
- Other important composers: Antonio Salieri (1750-1825) and John Field (1782-1837)

## Romantic Era

1800-1910

Romanticism began in Germany, but was influenced by the ideologies of the French Revolution. The world of music focused on originality and individuality, personal emotional expression, and freedom and experimentation. Nationalism and intense emotion replaced rationalism and logic as values.

1770 - 1827

German composer **Ludwig van Beethoven** is one of the most admired of his era.



1797 - 1828

Austrian composer **Franz Peter Schubert** has works in the late Classical and early Romantic eras.



1809 - 1847

**Felix Mendelssohn** was a German composer of the Romantic era.



1810 - 1849

**Frédéric Chopin** was a Polish composer who wrote mainly for the piano.



1810 - 1856

German composer **Robert Schumann** is considered one of the greatest composers of his era.



## Romantic Era

1800-1910

Early Phase: Many of the early Romantics valued heroism and wanted to create a higher quality society. This was a time of war with great political and social upset.

Second Phase: This phase was marked by cultural nationalism and interest in native folk tales, dance, and music. By now, Romanticism had spread throughout Europe.

1811 - 1886

Hungarian composer **Franz Liszt** was also a talented pianist.



1813 - 1901

Italian composer **Giuseppe Verdi** was talented, but not popular with his peers.



1824 - 1884

Czech composer **Bedřich Smetana** gave his work a nationalistic flavor.



1825 - 1899

Austrian composer **Johann Strauss II** is known as the king of the waltz.



1833 - 1897

**Johannes Brahms** was a German composer of the mid-Romantic era.



- Romanticism emphasized the individual and the imagination.
- The era appreciated the beauty of nature.
- During this era, the senses and emotion were more important than reason and intellect.
- Other important composers: Hector Berlioz (1803-1869) and Richard Wagner (1813-1883)



## Modernism

1890-1975

Late Phase: Nationalism continued as a key focus. Music became more and more inventive and creative as the era started to shift toward Modernism.

Modernism first emerged in France. The movement questioned past ways of thinking. It emphasized the ability of humans to create, improve, and reshape their world. Music of this era was innovative.

1840 - 1893

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** was the first Russian composer to become well-known internationally.



1841 - 1904

**Antonín Leopold Dvořák** was one of the first Czech composers to be recognized internationally.



1843 - 1907

Norwegian composer **Edvard Hagerup Grieg** is one of the most important Romantic composers.



1860 - 1911

Austro-Bohemian composer **Gustav Mahler** bridged the Romantic and Modernist eras of music.



1862 - 1918

French composer **Claude Debussy** is among the most influential composers of the late 1800s and early 1900s.



- Composers found new ways to arrange harmony, melody, and rhythm.
- Modernist music incorporated interesting and unusual sounds.
- Music was less predictable with fewer links between tone and harmony.
- Other important composers: Béla Bartók (1881-1945) and John Cage (1912-1992)

### Featured Instrument: Violin

- ◆ The first violin appeared in Italy around 1564.
- ◆ Violins are made of wood.
- ◆ Violin strings are made of nylon or metal.
- ◆ In 2010, a violin was sold for \$16,000,000!

A violin has 4 strings:  
G, D, A, and E.

Tuning pegs adjust  
the sound of each  
string.

Players place  
their fingers on  
the fingerboard to  
change the sound of  
the strings.

A bow, which has  
150-200 strands of  
horse hair, is used to  
play the violin.

F holes allow  
sound to escape.

The chin rest makes  
the violin more  
comfortable to play.



*This is where you can find the violins in an orchestra.*

## Concert Halls Around the World: Parco della Musica, Rome

- ◆ The Parco della Musica is a large music complex in Rome, Italy.
- ◆ The complex has three concert halls:
  - *Sala Santa Cecilia*, with 2,800 seats
  - *Sala Sinopoli*, with 1,200 seats
  - *Sala Petrassi*, with 700 seats
- ◆ People sometimes call the concert halls “the turtles” or “the computer mice” because of their shape.
- ◆ There is also an outdoor theater.
- ◆ It is the most visited music facility in Europe. Every year, about two million people come here to listen to music.



## Music and Movies

- ◆ You can hear music by Vivaldi in these movies:
  - *Fantastic Four* (2015)
  - *The Secret Life of Pets* (2016)
  - *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (2017)



A movie theater showing  
*Spider-Man: No Way Home*



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- 5 The Works of Claude Debussy

Music touches the hearts of everyone. Here is what some of the world's writers and musicians have said about music:

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."

— **Plato**

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. Music is the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks, and invents."

— **Ludwig van Beethoven**

"Music is well said to be the speech of angels."

— **Thomas Carlyle**

"Where words fail, music speaks."

— **Hans Christian Andersen**

"To send light into the darkness of men's hearts—such is the duty of the artist."

— **Robert Schumann**