

Meridian Music of the Week!

Issue No. 6

Each week ALL our children will be listening to a piece of classical music as part of our music lessons. We'll be talking about it in class and discussing what we like, what we don't like and what it makes us think or feel.

Parents/carers/family - why not join in and listen for yourself at home! All music is available **free** on YouTube as well as paid services such as iTunes and Spotify.



This week's music...

'Winter' (1st movement) from 'The Four Seasons' by Antonio Vivaldi

YouTube –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56_E68yN5MI

After last week's Russian sleigh ride, this week we have another piece of 'seasonal' music. This time it's from an Italian composer, written around 1716 and it's taken from a very famous classical work – *'The Four Seasons'*. This was a set of four violin concertos written to describe, musically, each of the four seasons – Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter. They are played with a full orchestra, but with a solo violin taking the lead.

'The Four Seasons' is a very popular piece amongst violinists because it allows them to **improvise** around the music and perform it in their own unique way. Sometimes they speed up or slow down different sections (changing the **tempo**) – or they change the **dynamics** (how loudly or quietly they play). No matter which violinist you listen to playing it, there'll always be something different in the music.

This YouTube recording is by the well-known violinist Nigel Kennedy. He was famous for being a little 'rebellious' when he was younger. He looked and dressed very differently from most classical musicians – and he was a keen football fan (of Aston Villa!) He recorded a CD of *'The Four Seasons'* in 1989 which sold over 2 million copies across the world. It made it one of the biggest selling classical recordings of all time.

Strangely, *'The Four Seasons'* is also very popular with people who make TV adverts for cars! Click [here](#) for a Renault Megane advert and [here](#) for a 'heavy metal' BMW one.

Would Vivaldi have approved of his music being used to sell cars? I guess we'll never know...

Listen & enjoy

Mr. Mole

Music Teacher

