

# Music Appreciation

# Instrumental Concerto

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# Pieces Covered this Unit

- Baroque – Vivaldi, ‘Spring’ from *The Four Seasons*, 1<sup>st</sup> movement
- Baroque – Bach, ‘Brandenburg Concerto’ no. 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> movement
- Classical – Mozart, Flute Concerto in A Major, 1<sup>st</sup> movement

# Terms Covered this Unit

- Solo concerto
- Concerto grosso
- Virtuoso
- Ritornello form
- Tutti
- Program music
- Ritornello
- Cadenza
- Embellishment

# The Baroque Concerto

- Baroque Period: 1600-1750
- Two types of concertos in the Baroque period:
  - Solo Concerto
    - 1 soloist, accompanying orchestra
  - Concerto Grosso
    - A group of soloists, accompanying orchestra
- The size of the orchestra is typically small by today's standards
  - Mostly strings, few winds
  - **Always** contains a harpsichord player
- Contains 3 movements:
  - I. Fast
  - II. Slow
  - III. Fast

# Antonio Vivaldi

- Italian Baroque Composer (1678-1741)
- **Virtuoso** violinist
  - A ‘rockstar’ of one’s instrument
- Known as the ‘Red Priest’
  - He had red hair, and was ordained as Roman Catholic priest
  - Had to stop conducting mass due to a heart condition
- Worked as music director at an orphanage for girls
- Composed almost 350 solo concertos
  - About 2/3 of the output was for solo violin
- Composed 45 double concertos
  - More than half are for 2 violinists

# The Four Seasons

- Most famous of his violin concertos
- A collection of 4 3-movement violin concertos
  - Each based on his own poetry depicting the four seasons
- An example of **program music**
  - Purely instrumental music that is based on a non-musical idea or narrative
- Vivaldi actually wrote the poetry *within the music* so that the musicians would know what part of the poetry they were performing
  - This is highly unusual!

## The Ritornello Form

Ritornello	Solo	(Partial Ritornello)						
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Tonic Key ——— Other Key ————— Tonic Key

Most solo concerto and concerto grossi feature movements in Ritornello Form. The term "**ritornello**" is Italian for "**little return**." This is because the musical material is the same, thus the same melody **returns** throughout the entire piece in the ritornello section (similar to a chorus in a pop song). The ritornello is typically played by the full orchestra; while the soloists may play with them, the **focus of the attention** is on the orchestra, and **not** the soloists. When the full orchestra plays at the same time, we call this the **tutti** section, which is Italian for "all."

After the opening ritornello, the music typically **modulates** (changes key) for the solo section. Here, the full orchestra backs off and lets the soloists play. Here, the soloists play technically demanding or very expressive music; these are the more impressive sections of the entire movement.

The music will continue to modulate, alternating back and forth between ritornello statements, and solo statements, until the composer returns to the **tonic key**, which will ultimately bring the movement to a close.

- **Name of Piece:** ‘Spring’ from *Four Seasons*
- **Composer:** Vivaldi
- **Genre:** Violin Concerto
- **Form:** Ritornello Form
- **Time Period:** Baroque
- **Program:** Based on the composer’s own poetry depicting spring

### Vivaldi’s Poetry for Movement 1:

Festive Spring has arrived,  
The birds salute it with their happy song.  
And the brooks, caressed by gentle breezes,  
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.

### The Poetry in the Music

0:00: Joyful spring (in the major mode, and upbeat)  
0:30: Birds’ happy song  
1:11: Brooks and gentle breezes  
1:40: sky covered with black mantle, announcing the storm  
2:18: birds come back after the storm

# The Concerto Grosso

- **Name of Piece:** Brandenburg Concerto no. 2
- **Composer:** Bach
- **Genre:** Concerto grosso
  - Trumpet
  - Oboe
  - Recorder
  - Violin
- **Form:** Ritornello and Fugue
  - Bach blends these two together
  - Treats the opening ritornello like the exposition of a fugue!
  - Notice how it gets louder
- **Time Period:** Baroque



## Bach's Blending of Ritornello and Fugue Form

Solo	Ritornello	Solo	(Partial Ritornello)	Solo	(Partial Ritornello)	Solo
Fugue Exposition	Episode	Middle Entry	Episode	Middle Entry	Episode	Final Entry

Solo/Expos: 0:53

Rit/Episode: 1:03

Solo/M.E.: 1:19

Rit/Episode: 1:37

Solo/M.E.: 1:48

Rit/Episode: 1:59

Solo/F.E.: 2:21

# The Concerto in the Classical Era

- Classical Era (1750-1820ish)
- The orchestra is now an established large ensemble
  - Strings, winds, brass, percussion
- Composers stop using the **ritornello form** from the Baroque, and employ an expanded **sonata form**
  - Expanded because of the **double exposition**
    - Refers to the fact that the orchestra plays on its own *before the soloists even plays*
- Similar to the Classical convention, the tempo of the music seldom changes within a single movement
- Dynamics (louds/softs) are not too extreme

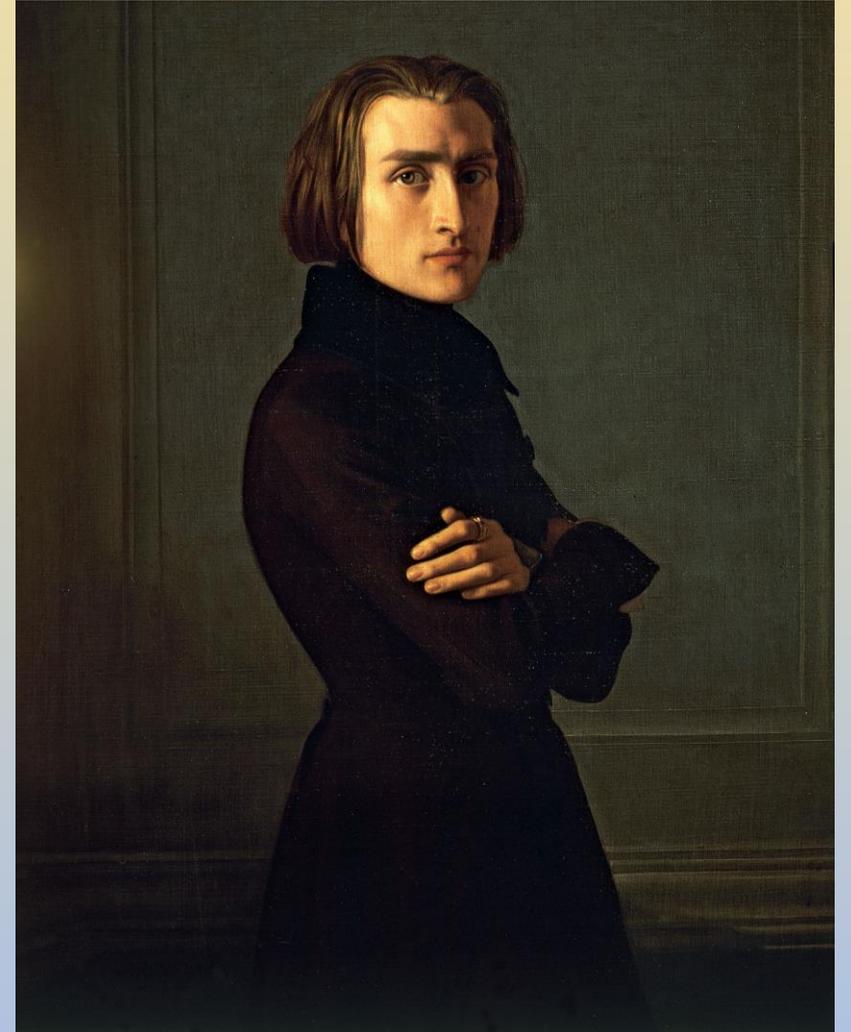
- **Name of Piece:** Flute concerto
- **Composer:** Mozart
- **Genre:** flute concerto
- **Form:** expanded sonata form
- **Time Period:** Classical
  - Symmetrical phrasing
  - Use of sonata form



<u>Exposition 1</u>	<u>Exposition 2</u>	<u>Development</u>	<u>Recapitulation</u>	<u>Cadenza</u>	<u>Coda</u>
orchestra alone	flute and orch	flute and orch	return of themes from exposition 2	solo passage	conclusion flute and orch
0:53	1:50 2:20	4:16	5:50 6:19	8:05	9:16

# Franz Liszt and the Virtuoso Pianist

- Hungarian composer (1811-86)
- Friend and contemporary of Frederic Chopin
- Virtuoso piano player
- Innovative composer
  - Created the Tone Poem
- Much more of an extrovert than Chopin
- Wrote 99 CDs worth of *piano music alone*
  - Only about 33 of them are original pieces
  - The rest are transcriptions
    - Liszt took other composers' symphonies, songs, chamber music and arranged it for piano



- **Name of Piece:** Flute concerto
- **Composer:** Franz Liszt
- **Genre:** piano concerto
- **Form:** expanded sonata form
- **Time Period:** Romantic

