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| **Listening to Music 1*****You should choose as much or as little of this as you see fit for the group you are teaching.*** |
| **Name of Composer** | Antonio Vivaldi (image below) |
| **Composers Dates** | 4th March 1678– died a pauper in 1741 |
| **Composers place of birth** | Born in Venice to Camilla Calicchio and Giovanni Battista Vivaldi, who was a barber, baker and violinist. He had five siblings. |
| **Name of Piece** | **The Four Seasons- Autumn**, Concerto Number 3 (of 4) for Violin & Orchestra. |
| **Date composed** | Composed in Venice, Italy, in 1720 |
| **Historical Style** | Baroque Era |
| **A Painting from this period** | Giovanni Antonia Canal- known as Caneletto- [The Entrance to the Grand Canal, Venice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Entrance_to_the_Grand_Canal%2C_Venice), c. 1730 |
| **Event/s in History from this time** | 1 January 1660-Samuel Pepys starts his diaryMarch 1665 - Great Plague of London begins2 September 1666- Great Fire of London destroys two-thirds of the city1672- Royal African Company is established to regulate the African slave trade |
| **Info about the piece & Composer** | The great Italian composer was a genius in the way that he used music to deftly paint that scene and evoke a seasonal mood.**The first movement** begins at a country dance at a harvest festival. The music is crisp and carefree. As the solo violin lines become more virtuosic, you can hear the dancing and jollity, with a good amount of Italian wine in the mix! You can hear the music fall to sleep before rejoining the dance.**The second movement** takes the form of a beautiful Adagio molto. With softly arching strings, you can hear the cooler air of autumn arrive.Joy returns in **the third movement** with a Baroque hunt and one of the most charming pieces in classical music. You can almost hear the crackle of leaves underneath the hooves of the horses and dogs as they dart over the autumnal countryside. Vivaldi's was a priest & the crop of curly red hair, inherited from his father, prompted friends to nickname the composer 'il Prete Rosso' - the red priest.'The Four Seasons' may well be his most famous piece, but Vivaldi wrote more than 500 other concertos for other instruments including mandolin, cello, flute, viola d'amore, recorder, and lute. Around 230 of these are for violin - he was, after all, a violinist, like his father.A copy of the score to follow if playing just audio<https://www.mfiles.co.uk/scores/Autumn.pdf> |
| **Focus of listening** | Listen out for the different pictures Vivaldi is painting with these 3 contrasting movements. Ask for words to describe the music or how it makes the students feel.Can you hear the crunching Autumn leaves, the dancing drunk falling asleep in the first movement (where it quietens for a short while around 3’10”) plucking the strings is called Pizzicato.The big guitar like instrument in the video is a [Theorbo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVabz8LneI4), the keyboard instrument is a Harpsichord (note the baroque design on it).There are only stringed instruments in this pieces- what are the 3 other sections of the orchestra- Brass, Woodwind & Percussion. |
| **Link to Performances**  | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRt7d5ZPU2E&feature=emb_logo>Audio only on Spotify https://open.spotify.com/track/2cahuJO249bWzvpiHzgF2z?si=m4cxRYapRTaSX3TBIgu-Tw |
| **Length of Clip** | This video clip is 11’04” long, 2nd Movement starts at 5mins, 3rd movement starts at 7’.38”. Depending on your group you may choose to play just one or 2 of the 3 movements. |
| **Other interesting or relevant info- why are we doing it this week/month year?** | It’s Autumn! |





