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Vivaldi's Four Seasons



Synopsis

In eighteenth-century Venice, Italy, the finest musical performances are heard at an orphanage called the Ospedale della Pieta. Hidden from the audience is an orchestra of young orphan girls, some with physical disabilities and illnesses. Padre Antonio Vivaldi, their music teacher, is inspired by the talented and determined young girls. When Vivaldi and his students are separated, Vivaldi is inspired to compose a set of concertos that mark the passing of time--the great baroque masterpiece entitled The Four Seasons. Back matter includes an author's note with further historical and biographical information, as well as the text of the sonnets that accompany the music.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Definitely one of the very best in this exquisite series. For my money I'd say it and the duo's most recent release -Danse Macabre- are tops, though Ms. Celenza's collaboration with Don Tate (Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite) is also beautiful. But why is everyone mentioning only Ms. Celenza here? Her esteemed illustrator JoAnn E. Kitchel deserves 50% of the credit for her magnificent illustrations, which in this book wonderfully evoke 1700's Italy, with a lovely use of red. Ms. Kitchel is really top-rank, and it's about time she gets the recognition she has so richly earned!

I used to play in the orchestra back in my younger days and decided to pick this book up to see how

it is. Did it make me relive my old orchestra days? Let's find out._____Artwork: The artwork in the book is nicely done. It primarily consisted of 2D colored pencil drawings to me but I am by no means an expert on art. It was easy on the eyes and coloring was nicely done. It's not the best art I have seen but it is quite unique and pleasant to look at._____Plot: The book mainly focuses on Vivaldi's career and mostly his relationship with a female orphanage that he worked with at the beginning of his career. The book explores their relationship and also shows how Vivaldi came to make the Four Seasons which is notably his most famous work according to critics. The plot was well done and says a lot about keeping relationships even when you are apart even when you haven't talked for years. Kids will be exposed to the long lasting effects of friendship from reading this book. I actually looked at the accuracy of this book to the actual life of Vivaldi and a lot of the facts did match with what was depicted. It is a great way to teach children musical history through clever storytelling._____Conclusion: Vivaldi's Four Seasons is a great read for any children with an interest in music and want to know more about the life of this composer. It also shows that relationships can last years even if you are apart for years helping children get a grasp of what true friendship really means.

This is a nice little book that would interest elementary age school children. There is a CD included - not the best rendition of the 4 Seasons, but good enough and it is especially nice to be able to have the music while you are reading. The story of Vivaldi and writing the 4 Seasons is told, as if he wrote the music for the orphanage in Venice that he was affiliated with. It is not known for certain where or when he composed this work. The book might bring about an interest in music, especially for girls, since that is what is included in this story - that he helped these orphans that had some physical disabilities but who could play wonderful music. The drawings are good, although I would have liked the Vivaldi character to have looked more like his real image. There are translations of the Four Seasons and an author's note that gives a summary of Vivaldi. It's a book with a good idea behind it and is enjoyable.

Another winner from Anna Harwell Celnza! My nieces and nephew (ages 3-5-8) all love it. Learning about the orphanage for girls was especially interesting for the 8 yr old. And we actually heard the 3 year old humming Vivaldi long after we put the book/cd away!

I read this to my Suzuki Book 1 violin group class this week as part of a unit I am also incorporating on Vivaldi's Four Seasons. It comes with a CD of the music. There are superior recordings, and I

actually use a different recording, however it would be fine to listen to! My students all seemed to enjoy the story and there is a description of all 3 movements of "Spring" that is helpful for directing listening.

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