



## Vivaldi: The Four Seasons

The four violin concertos, known as ***The Four Seasons*** (including one called ***Winter***), were published in 1725. They were part of a set of twelve violin concertos entitled *Il cimento dell'armonia e dell'invenzione* (the contest between harmony and invention).

Antonio **Vivaldi** lived in Venice. Whilst Venice can be warm in summer, the city is very cold in winter as it is close to the Alps and can be covered in snow and ice.

There is a poem about how it feels to experience winter, most probably written by Vivaldi himself. He used this to help him compose the music mentioned above.

(Translated into English):

*To tremble from cold in the icy snow,*

*In the harsh breath of a horrid wind;*

*To run, stamping one's feet every moment,*

*Our teeth chattering in the extreme cold.*

*We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously, for fear of tripping and falling.*

*Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and, rising, hasten on across the ice lest it cracks up.*

*We feel the chill north winds course through the home despite the locked and bolted doors...*

*This is winter, which nonetheless brings its own delights.*