

UCSD Bach Ensemble

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

Dr. Takae Ohnishi, Instructor
with guest artists
Pei-Chun Tsai (San Diego Symphony),
Ilana Waniuk (Graduate Student)
Cory Lin (Alumnus)

Vivaldi Night!

All works by Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

“Spring” from The Four Seasons in E major

Allegro / Largo e pianissimo sempre / Allegro pastorale

Violins: Ilana Waniuk (soloist), Pei-Chun Tsai, Meng-Chia Lee

Viola: Michelle Holland

Cello: Henry Helmuth

Harpsichord: Takae Ohnishi

Concerto for Two Violins in A minor

Allegro / Lergetto e spritoso / Allegro

Violins: Savanna Dunaway (soloist), Jacqueline Guy (soloist),

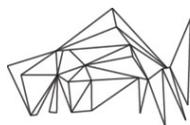
Pei-Chun Tsai, Leanne Chen

Viola: Kane Gu

Cello: Cory Lin

Harpsichord: Takae Ohnishi

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“Winter” from The Four Seasons in F minor

Allegro non molto / Largo / Allegro

Violin: Leanne Chen (soloist), Pei-Chun Tsai, Savanna Dunaway,

Viola: Kane Gu

Cello: Julianne Chen

Harpsichord: Takae Ohnishi

Concerto for Two Cellos in G minor

Allegro (moderato) / Largo / Allegro

Cello: Julianne Chen (soloist), Henry Helmuth (soloist)

Violin: Pei-Chun Tsai, Jacqueline Guy

Viola: Michelle Holland

Cello: Cory Lin

Harpsichord: Takae Ohnishi

Program Note

Vivaldi's biography

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741): Born on March 4, 1678, in Venice, Italy, Antonio Vivaldi was ordained as a priest though he instead chose to follow his passion for music. Vivaldi studied violin from his father at a young age and he sought religious training as well. At the age of 25, Vivaldi was named master of violin at the Ospedale della Pietà (Devout Hospital of Mercy) in Venice. He composed most of his major works in this position over three decades. He was known for his concertos in Baroque style, becoming a highly influential innovator in form and pattern. He was also known for his operas, including *Argippo*, *Beazer*, *La costanza trionfante* and *Farnace*. He died on July 28, 1741.

Four Seasons “Spring”

One of the most famous works of the Baroque period (1600–1750) is a set of virtuosic pieces by Antonio Vivaldi titled *The Four Seasons* for violin concerti (Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter), published in 1735. The first concerto of *The Four Seasons* is “Spring,” describing its freshness and beauty. An exuberant ritornello (recurring theme) opens the first movement as three violins imitate bird songs with trills and repeating notes. A brook murmurs in undulating sixteenth notes. A brief thunderstorm temporarily interrupts the warbling birds. In the second movement a shepherd snoozes to a lovely melody, his dog

warning off intruders (while the continuo players rest.) The third movement is a pastoral musette (bagpipe) .

Double Violin Concerto in A minor

Double Violin Concerto in A minor is a three-movement work for two solo violins concertino plus orchestral ripieno of violins, violas, cello, and basso continuo. The Allegro movement begins with the main theme for the ripieno, followed by the two soloists playing separately and in imitation. The central Larghetto e spiritoso is close to a sarabande in its march-like ripieno chord sequence and close to a passacaglia in its lyrical episodes for the two soloists. The closing movement is in Allegro, with a final big cadence.

Four Seasons “Winter”

“Winter” is the fourth concerto in *The Four Seasons*. It has three movements with the tempo fast – slow – fast. We can hear the flurry of a winter snowstorm very clearly. In the first movement, we can hear icy cold winter sound with brittle harpsichord and staccato strings. We probably can hear the most memorable melody of the four concertos in the second movement. The third movement finds the villagers trying to walk and skate on ice covering a pond, which eventually cracks open. Dead leaves hang in a zephyr before a bursting winter storm completes the pageant.

Double Cello Concerto in G minor

Antonio Vivaldi left only one ‘double’ concerto for cellos: RV531 in G minor. In all probability, this was composed for the Pietà during the 1720s. Today it stands out as one of Vivaldi’s most popular works. It consists of three movements and the cadenza-like opening leaves one in no doubt of its highly charged emotional content. The Largo is a stately duet with a strongly vocal character, between the limitations of the two cellos. The final Allegro emphasizes on the alternation of musical themes between the ensemble and soloists.

-Prepared by Qingqing Wang

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David Espiritu, Jr. - Theatrical Production Specialist
Caroline Louise Miller, composer - chimes