

## About Vivaldi & Bach

1.

Vivaldi's Four Seasons are among the most often recorded pieces in history, with at least 1,000 published versions. This is an extract from the very first recording, from 1939, with violinist Alfredo Campoli playing the solo.

<https://youtu.be/Uz4OqiC1CWY>

2.

After Bach became acquainted with Vivaldi's music in 1712 or 13, his own style changed significantly. Perhaps the most important thing he learned from Vivaldi was how to open a piece with big blocks of contrasting harmonies, repeatedly alternating between tonic and dominant chords. This is one of the defining features that differentiates music from the eighteenth century from the styles of the seventeenth century.

3.

Though Bach and Vivaldi never met, they had at least one close mutual friend. The violinist Johann Georg Pisendel went to Venice to study with Vivaldi, and Vivaldi was so impressed with his pupil that he wrote two concerti and a sonata for him. Pisendel and Bach also worked together, and Pisendel may have been the intended performer of Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin. You can hear a bit of Pisendel's own music here:

<https://youtu.be/TARZYV9PEbc>

4.

While Vivaldi's reputation attracted many traveling musicians to Venice, the majority of his students were the girls and young women of the Ospedale della Pietà, where he worked for most of his career. One in particular, known as Anna Maria del Violino, was reported to be a great virtuoso, and was the dedicatee of several of Vivaldi's most ferociously difficult concerti. BHB violinist Lisa Rautenberg will channel her when playing the first violin part to the Concerto for Four Violins in B minor, written for Anna Maria.

<https://youtu.be/OSU0WkETVUY>