



Dear Orchestra Miami Patron,

Thank you for your interest in Orchestra Miami's presentation of *Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery*. We're excited to share this wonderful program with you! Our Education Director, Jane Allen, has developed a guide for listening to this intriguing story, in order to help you and your family have meaningful conversations about music and how you interpret it. This guide has exercises, fun facts about the music and story, and a little music history all in one. There is also a guide to help facilitate a conversation before and after the concert to get your family thinking about their own individual connection and interpretation of *Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery*.

Orchestra Miami's goal is to bring communities in Miami together through music. We pride ourselves on taking the lead in educating future generations about classical music. If you'd like more information about future concerts, or you'd like more educational information about *Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery*, please visit our website [orchestramiami.org](http://orchestramiami.org) and download Classical Kids' teacher guide. If you have any other questions about our educational programs or our outreach, please feel free to contact Jane Allen at [jallen@orchestramiami.org](mailto:jallen@orchestramiami.org).

Thank you for your interest in, and support of Orchestra Miami. I hope that you enjoy the performance and look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Sincerely,  
Elaine Rinaldi  
Artistic Director, Orchestra Miami



## Plot Synopsis

***Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery*** centers on the journey of Katarina, an orphan girl from Venice. While in Venice, she is sent to the Pietá Orphanage, near St. Mark's Square. She joins the girls' orchestra, led by Antonio Vivaldi, a famous Italian Baroque composer. Among Katarina's possessions is a ring, the only clue to her past. With the aid of a gondolier named Giovanni, she sets off to different locations in Venice, including St. Mark's Square, the Clock tower, and the Island of the Dead, to search for her family. While finding her roots, Katarina must choose between her music with Vivaldi at the Pietá, or entering back into the world.

## Before The Concert - Vivaldi's Life

Here are some facts about Vivaldi's life:

- ★ Antonio Vivaldi was born in 1678, and died in 1741.
- ★ He composed during a musical era called the “Baroque” period. This means that during this period, music was very elaborate, with trills and ornamental sounds, and frequently used an instrument similar to a modern-day piano called the harpsichord.
- ★ Two other composers of this period, Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederich Handel, were born seven years after Vivaldi, and were heavily influenced by Vivaldi's music!
- ★ Vivaldi wrote over 450 pieces of music! His most prolific works are called a “concerto,” which is a composition where smaller and larger groups take turns playing the music.
- ★ His most famous work, “The Four Seasons,” is actually a Violin concerto!
- ★ There was an earthquake on the day he was born, March 4th, 1678.
- ★ He was affectionately known as “The Red Priest,” because of his ties to the Catholic Church and his fiery red hair!
- ★ Though famous throughout Europe, Vivaldi decided to dedicate his life to teaching girls how to play instruments in the Pietá Orphanage and became the musical director and composer.
- ★ Vivaldi had asthma - hence, his love for the violin!

## Before The Concert - Listening

There are many playlists available to listen to on YouTube containing all the repertoire from *Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery*. Just search "Vivaldi Ring of Mystery" in the search bar. Here is a comprehensive list of the pieces being performed in the concert: **(Movt = movement, section of a piece, RV = Ryom-Verzeichnis, Vivaldi's catalogue organization)**

- ★ Spring, Movt. 1, RV 269
- ★ Piccolo Concerto, RV 443
- ★ Autumn, RV 293
- ★ Flute Sonata, Movt. 1, RV 52
- ★ Violin Concerto in A minor, Movts. 1 + 2, RV 356
- ★ Winter, Movt. 2, RV 297
- ★ Guitar Concerto, Movts. 2 + 3, RV 93
- ★ Alma del core - a song written by Antonio Caldara, a contemporary of Antonio Vivaldi!
- ★ Il Gardellino, RV 90
- ★ Trumpet Concerto, Movts. 1 + 3, RV 537
- ★ Concerto for Two Oboes and Two Clarinets, RV 559
- ★ Sonata for Two Violins, Movt. 2, RV 50
- ★ Il Farnace, RV 711
- ★ La notte, Movts. 1 + 2 + 3, RV 439
- ★ Summer, Movt. 3, RV 315
- ★ Beatus Vir, RV 597
- ★ Violin Sonata in F Major, Movt. 1 RV 20
- ★ Double Orchestra Concerto, Movt. 2, RV 585

## Discussions for Before and After the Concert

**Before** the concert, we suggest these topics for discussion with your family:

- ★ For 600 years, Venice was the biggest tourist attraction in Europe, attracting numerous tourists during their Carnival season. Is Venice still a major tourist destination?
- ★ Carnival is a festival of ornamental costumes and parades of parties and lights. Are there other celebrations like this in the world? What are they?
- ★ Play the opening movement of *Spring*. Where has your family heard this before?
- ★ *Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery* is about an orphan girl trying to find her roots in Venice. Can your family name other orphan stories?

**After** the concert, you might discuss with your family:

- ★ Add “The Four Seasons” to a playlist so your family can forever enjoy the music of Antonio Vivaldi!
- ★ Discuss all of the possibilities of why Venice is sinking. What are your family's solutions?
- ★ What's the sequel to *Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery*? What would it be called?
- ★ When did your family figure out the mystery of the ring?



## Resources

Orchestra Miami

<https://www.orchestramiami.org/>

Classical Kids!

<https://www.classicalkidsnfp.org/>

Classics for Kids: Composer profile

[https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composer\\_profile.php?id=79](https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composer_profile.php?id=79)

Baroque Era fun facts:

<https://www.quavermusic.com/media/images/TeachersGuides/b1e30de6-4a6b-4801-a036-7c2d857f7a59.pdf>