

Symphony No. 90 in C major

by Franz Joseph Haydn

About the Music

This work was commissioned as a group of three symphonies (No. 90, 91 and 90) by amateur cellist and French nobleman, Claude-François-Marie Rigoley, comte d'Ogny. Claude-François also commissioned six earlier symphonies, now known as the Paris Symphonies, No. 83 - 87. Haydn was coveted for his musical sense of humor and Symphony No. 90 is no exception. Listen for unexpected accents, silences and phrases throughout the piece- especially the ending of the last movement!

Fun Fact

During his lifetime Haydn composed 640 hours of music: 108 symphonies, 24 operas, 90+ string quartets and more!

About the Composer

Franz Joseph Haydn | Born March 31, 1732 in Rohrau, Austria | Died May 31, 1809 in Vienna, Austria

Life & Career

Franz Joseph Haydn started his musical career at the early age of six when he was recruited to sing at the St. Stephens Cathedral in Vienna. It was there he received training in some instruments, including voice, until he reached puberty and had to leave St. Stephens. After that, Haydn made his own way by taking lessons, performing his own chamber works and playing in small recitals, as was typical for young musicians at the time. In 1760, Haydn was hired to be a Kapellmeister, a personal composer and music director, of the powerful, influential and artistic Esterházy (ES-ter-hah-zee) family. His direct employer was Prince Nikolaus Esterházy and a majority of Haydn's works were symphonies dedicated to Prince Nikolaus's audience or chamber works for him to play with Haydn. During this time, Haydn lived on Esterházy estate and rarely took public commissions. In 1790, Prince Nikolaus died, but Haydn had built a considerable reputation in Europe and received commissions in London and later Paris.

Eagle Tree

by Jessica Hunt | Born 1987 in California

About the Composer

Jessica Hunt music has been heard from coast to coast, including Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York City, broadcast on FM radio and PBS television, recorded on the Pro Organo label, and played in concert by some of today's finest ensembles and soloists, including the Gaudete Brass Quintet, the Chiara Quartet, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings, the Calidore Quartet.

About the Music:

Haydn's piece is not the only piece that was commissioned on today's program. The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra commissioned local composer, Jessica Hunt, to compose a piece for today's concert. Her piece is called *The Eagle Tree*. A commission is when a person or group of people pay a composer to write a new piece of music. Often, that music is written for a specific event or to honor a person or place. Today's performance is the world premier, which means this is the first time this piece has ever been performed!



Program Notes for kids

The Four Seasons
Saturday, November 10, 2018
8:00 p.m.
Michigan Theater

Romanian Folk Dances by Bartók

The Eagle Tree by Jessica Hunt (Commissioned U-M Composer)

Symphony No. 90 in C major by Franz Joseph Haydn

“Autumn” & “Winter” from *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi
featuring Rachel Barton Pine, violin

“Spring” & “Summer” from *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* by Astor Piazzolla
featuring Rachel Barton Pine, violin

The Four Seasons

by Antonio Vivaldi

About the Music

The Four Seasons is a set of four violin concerti based off of the four weather seasons and was composed in 1725 by Antonio Vivaldi. Tonight, you will be hearing “Autumn” and “Winter”. The piece will be in a Baroque style which means the music will alternate between the orchestra leading and the violin solo. It is believed that Vivaldi himself wrote the accompanying poems. “Autumn” describes the transition from summer to fall. It talks about a cool breeze and the harvest for food. “Winter” is about the coldness this season brings. Listen out for the high-pitched plucking from the strings that represents ice and snowfall.

“Autumn”

The peasant celebrates with song and dance the harvest safely gathered in.
The cup of Bacchus flows freely, and many find their relief in deep slumber.



The singing and the dancing die away as cooling breezes fan the pleasant air, inviting all to sleep without a care.

The hunters emerge at dawn, ready for the chase, with horns and dogs and cries. Their quarry flees while they give chase.

“Winter”

Shivering, frozen mid the frosty snow in biting, stinging winds;
running to and fro to stamp one’s icy feet, teeth chattering in the bitter chill.



To rest contentedly beside the hearth, while those outside are drenched by pouring rain.

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 coarse through the

About the Composer

Antonio Vivaldi | Born March 4, 1678 in Venice, Italy | Died July 28, 1741 in Vienna, Austria

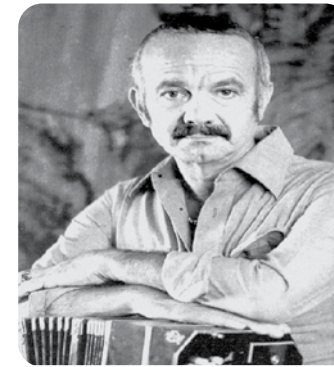
Life & Career

Antonio Vivaldi first took violin lessons from his father, Giovanni Vivaldi, who was a professional violinist. In 1703, Vivaldi was ordained as a priest and was appointed as the violin teacher at the Ospedale della Pieta (“Compassion Hospital”), an orphanage for girls. While there, he taught and composed violin works for the girls and performed his priestly duties, but due to “chest pains”, he gave up his obligation to lead mass. It’s unclear whether he had a real illness or if he pretended to be sick to focus on music. As his reputation at the orphanage grew, his music career began to flourish. In 1713, Vivaldi took on some of the responsibilities of choirmaster at the orphanage and began writing vocal music. The success of several of his operas took him out of Venice to Mantua, Vicenza and Vienna, Austria.



The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

by Astor Piazzolla



About the Composer

Astor Pantaleon Piazzolla | Born March 11, 1921 in Mar del Plata, Argentina | Died July 4, 1992 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Life & Career

Astor Piazzolla was an Argentine composer, arranger and musician. He revolutionized the traditional tango into a style called tango nuevo, or “new tango”, incorporating elements from jazz and classical music. He immigrated to New York City when he was little and grew up playing tango on the bandoneon and Bach on the piano. In 1938, Piazzolla moved back to Argentina in Buenos Aires and continued to perform in orchestras, compose tangos and orchestral pieces. He sought to find a sound that incorporated the music of his homeland, the jazz of his youth and his endless love for classical music. Throughout his journey, he faced resistance to his attempts to bring this original sound into the classical world, but persevered and gained the support of a well respected composition instructor and mentor, Nadia Boulanger. As Piazzolla traveled though Europe and Central America, he gained a reputation for his tango nuevo and jazz infused classical to begin to take his music globally to much acclaim.



The **bandoneon** (ban-DOH-nee-on) is a type of concertina (like the various accordions and the harmonica), played by holding the instrument between both hands and pushing in or pulling out, while pressing the buttons with the fingers. It has an essential role in the tango orchestra (orquesta tipica), and in fact has become almost the symbol of tango.

About the Music

What kind of piece is this?

Tonight, you will be hearing “Spring” & “Summer” from Four Seasons of Buenos Aires. Which completes the concerts representation of all four seasons between the Vivaldi and Piazzolla. Piazzolla’s “Seasons” are among the most advanced examples of his tango nuevo style. “Summer” was written in 1965, originally as incidental music for the play ‘Melenita de Oro’ by Alberto Rodríguez Muñoz. “Spring” was written in 1970.

