**Spring Has Sprung!**

In this listening activity, we will explore one of the most-well known works from the Baroque era: "Spring" from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. As a whole, *The Four Seasons* comprises four violin concertos, with the music portraying various images and scenes one associates with one of the four seasons. We will be focussing on the first concerto in the set ("Spring").

In this activity, students will piece together musical clues to identify the images and scenes depicted throughout the work. Have students listen to each movement separately. First, let the students guess the images and scenes based on what they're hearing and ask them to provide justification for their choice. You can prompt the discussion if the students are having trouble guessing.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FP9N2SbWn4>

First Movement (0:00-3:24)

* Birds chirping (0:34-1:27; 2:26-2:37) - trills in violins representing the fluttering and chirping of birds.
* Flowing rivers and brooks (1:15-1:37) - undulating musical patterns represent a flowing river.
* Thunderstorm (1:44-2:08) - fast tremolos and furious scalar passages evoke thunder and lightning.

Second Movement (3:44-6:11)

* Violas portray a barking dog, while the solo violin is the dog's owner sleeping peacefully in the shade.

Third Movement (6:38-end)

* The entire movement is a peasant dance celebrating Spring's arrival and rejuvenation of the Earth.