VivaldiHistorical Dictionary of Antonio Vivaldi/Vivaldi was born in Venice, Italy, on March 4, 1678, to a family of modest means. His father, a trumpeter, died when he was young, and his mother, a singer, was unable to support him. He was taken in by the Ospedale della Pietà, a charitable institution for orphans, where he received a musical education. He displayed such a precocious talent that he was soon able to perform as a member of the orchestra. In 1693, he was sent to the University of Padua to study philosophy and mathematics, but he soon turned his attention to music. He returned to the Ospedale della Pietà as a choirboy and became a favorite of the nave, where he continued to play the violin and compose music.

Vivaldi was a prolific composer, with over 400 works to his name, including operas, concertos, and sonatas. His most famous work is "The Four Seasons," a set of four violin concertos that describe the seasons of the year through music. He was also known for his virtuoso playing on the violin. Vivaldi's music was highly influential and was performed throughout Europe. He was appointed as the music director of the Ospedale della Pietà in 1703, and he remained in this position until his death in 1741.

Vivaldi's music was characterized by its clear line, its emotional expressiveness, and its virtuosic playing. He was a master of the concerto form, and his works are still widely performed today. Vivaldi's works are not only admired for their technical brilliance but also for their emotional depth and expressive power. His music continues to be popular in the concert halls and opera houses of the world, and his influence can be heard in the music of many composers who came after him.
The Opere di Antonio Vivaldi From the New York Times review of the Dallas Opera’s performance of Orlando furioso and the international symposium on Baroque opera: “... it was a serious, thoughtful, consistent and imaginative realization of a beautiful, long-neglected work, one that fully deserved all the loving attention it received. As such, the production and its attendant symposium made a positive contribution to the cause of Baroque opera...”

Baroque opera experienced a revival in the late eighteenth century. Its popularity, however, has given rise to a number of perplexing and exciting questions regarding literary sources, librettos, theater design, set design, stage movement, and costumes—even the editing of the operas. In 1940, the Dallas Opera produced the American premier of Vivaldi’s Orlando furioso, which met with much acclaim. Concurrently an international symposium on the subject of Baroque opera was held at Southern Methodist University. Authorities from around the world met to discuss the operatic works of Vivaldi, Handel, and other Baroque composers as well as the characteristics of the genre. Michael Collins and Elise Kirk, deputy chair and chair of the symposium, edited the papers to produce this groundbreaking study, which will be of great interest to music scholars and opera lovers throughout the world. Contributors to Opera and Vivaldi include Shelley Wynee, John Walter Hill, Andrew Porter, Eleanor Sadler-Spalding, Howard Mayer Brown, William Holmes, Ellen Rossier, and the editors.

Arie Per Sopranu Da Opera This detailed guide provides an ideal introduction to The Four Seasons and to Vivaldi’s music in general.

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