

## Art Inspires Art 2020

### Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* – Spring



#### Sonnet: Spring – Concerto in E Major

*Springtime is upon us.*

*The birds celebrate her return with festive song,  
and murmuring streams are softly caressed by the breezes.*

*Thunderstorms, those heralds of Spring, roar, casting their dark mantle over heaven,  
Then they die away to silence, and the birds take up their charming songs once more.*

*On the flower-strewn meadow, with leafy branches rustling overhead, the goat-herd sleeps, his faithful dog beside him.*

*Led by the festive sound of rustic bagpipes, nymphs and shepherds lightly dance beneath the brilliant canopy of spring*

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Antonio Vivaldi was born on March 4, 1678 in Venice, Italy. Antonio's father, Giovanni Battista, a barber before becoming a violinist, taught young Antonio to play the violin and then toured Venice playing the violin with him. At the age of 15, Antonio began training to become a priest. At the age of 25, he was ordained a priest and soon after became known as the Il Prete Rosso, "The Red Priest", because of his red hair. Due to his health, he left the priesthood in 1703 after only 3 years. But he was still able to pursue a career in music. Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, composed in 1723, is a set of four concertos for violin. It is his most popular work and is among the most popular works of the Baroque Era. For this composition he wrote sonnets to match each season. At the age of 25, Antonio Vivaldi was named master of violin at the Ospedale della Pietà (Devout Hospital of Mercy) in Venice. He composed most of his major works in this position over three decades. The Ospedale was an institution where orphaned girls received musical instruction on the violin. Vivaldi's work, including 500 concertos, have influenced other composers, including Johann Sebastian Bach.

#### About the Music:

The Four Seasons is a group of four violin concerti by Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi, each of which gives musical expression to a season of the year. They were written around 1716–1717 and published in 1725 in Amsterdam. Unusual for the period, Vivaldi published the concerti with accompanying sonnets (possibly written by the composer himself) that clarified what it was in the spirit of each season that his music was intended to evoke. The concerti therefore stand as one of the earliest and most detailed examples of what would come to be called program music—i.e., music with a narrative element. Vivaldi took great pains to relate his music to the texts of the poems, translating the poetic lines themselves directly into the music on the page. For example, in the middle section of "Spring", when the goatherd sleeps, his barking dog can be heard in the viola section. The music is elsewhere similarly reminiscent of other natural sounds. Vivaldi divided each concerto into three movements (fast–slow–fast), and, likewise, each linked sonnet into three sections.

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#### About the Art Project:

This project is inspired by [Vivaldi's Spring](#) composition and the goats out in the fields. In the background one can hear the birds and the babbling brook. Everything is new and fresh after the harsh thunderstorm – color is beginning to explode all around.

This project will explore line, shape, form, color, balance, and contrast. The technique demonstrated will be a [wet-on-wet watercolor technique](#).

#### Materials:

- White -Mixed Media paper, construction paper, or watercolor paper
- Watercolor paint or food coloring
- (2) containers for water: one is clean water that you apply to the paper and the other is for rinsing your brush
- Paint brushes, different sizes
- Black permanent marker
- Paper towels and baby wipes
- Small plate for mixing colors (optional)
- Kosher salt (optional)

#### Directions:

1. Select type of paper you wish to use. Begin by having the student lightly sketch or trace the image of a goat in pencil on the paper. Below are step by step directions for drawing a goat.

**Note:** Listen to the music of Vivaldi and imagine the colors you might hear in the music.....what are the colors of spring? Be sure to use these colors when you are painting the goat!

2. Working in small patches, apply a small amount of clean water to the paper (do not over soak the paper) with a clean wet paintbrush. Quickly dip the paint brush in watercolor pigment and touch it to the wet paper. Let the pigment spread throughout the water spot, you may need to move it around a bit with the brush to get the pigment to spread.

3. Clean your brush by dipping it into the “rinse” jar and then wiping it on a dry paper towel. Dip the brush into clean water and repeat step two making sure to work next and even overlapping your last wet area of color until you have filled in the image of the goat. Do not be afraid to leave some areas white!

4. Allow your painting to dry.

5. Once the painting is dry, use the black marker to outline the image of your goat. You can also use the marker to fill in any other details on the goat's face that you choose. i.e., eyes, mouth, nose, etc.

**Notes & Resources:** While the watercolor is still wet you can sprinkle salt on certain areas and then when the project is dry gently wipe it off. This will add a great effect to your painting!

**Project by: Monica Tolas**

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#### How to Draw a **Goat** in 7 Easy Steps



Step 1: First, draw the nose.



Step 2: Draw the mouth.



Step 3: Draw the horns.



Step 4: Draw the fur below the chin.



Step 5: Draw the eye.



Step 6: Draw the ear.



Step 7: Draw the neck.



Your Goat is now done!