



# *Vivaldi's* **The Four Seasons**

adapted for the stage by Tim Bray

In association with  
[Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra](#)  
and [Unitec School of Creative Industries](#)

## **STORY SUMMARY**



Fusing the classical and contemporary, actors will perform an original physical theatre piece set against Vivaldi's renowned *The Four Seasons* performed by a live string quartet. From blossoms to birds to basking on the beach at Christmas – this production will burst into life with the cycles of nature.

During this sensory relaxed performance, we have not changed the plot, characters, or story from our standard performances. Instead, we have done our best to adjust for sensory sensitivities and preferences while still staying true to the spirit of the play, and we provide as much information as possible so you can prepare in advance for the show you are attending. Everyone is unique in their requirements for enjoying the performance, and we have tried to accommodate a wide range of preferences and needs. Please keep in mind that you know your child best in deciding if this show will be suitable for them, and that during a live theatre performance unpredictable events and last-minute changes may occur.

**Warning- Spoiler Alert! If you do not want to learn about details and surprises in the show, do not read any further.**

**There are seventeen scenes in the show, including the pre-show and transitions.**

- **Pre-show and Welcome Speech**
- **Spring Crossword**
- *Spring I: Spring Cleaning*
- *Spring II: Flower Forest*
- *Spring III: Washing Day*
- **Summer Crossword**
- *Summer I: Christmastime*
- *Summer II: Boxing Day at the Beach*
- *Summer III: Going on Holiday*
- **Autumn Crossword**
- *Autumn I: Time for School*
- *Autumn II: Raking Leaves*
- *Autumn III: Preserving Fruit*
- **Winter Crossword**
- *Winter I: Wintery Weather*
- *Winter II: Jumping in Puddles*
- *Winter III: Snowball Fight*

**This story summary will give details about each scene**

## Pre-show and Welcome Speech



As the audience is coming in, the actors are checking the stage to make sure it's ready for the show. They each notice a coloured 'splodge' which appears. They paint over the coloured spot. Shortly before the show begins, all the painters gather on stage to check the stage. They notice the background is coloured. They paint it white. They leave the stage, and one actor closes the curtain.

**Note:** This scene is happening as the audience takes their seats, so actors may be on stage when you enter to find your seats.



Whitney the Audience Host welcomes the audience to the show, and tells them about Tim Bray Theatre Company. Whitney will invite children who are dressed up in costumes to stand at the front of the theatre for a Costume Parade. If you are dressed up, you can stand with the other kids and take a bow, and the audience will clap for you. After you stand, Whitney will give you a show poster to take home. If you don't want to stand, that's ok- you don't have to.

Whitney will tell the audience safety information about the theatre, like where the exits are, and then the show will begin.

## Spring Crossword No music



The curtain opens, revealing four musicians seated on the stage. Mum enters, and puts an apron on. She picks up a watering can. She fills up the birdbath, and whistles for piwakawaka (fantails). She sits in the white chair, picks up a crossword, and reads the clue. The answer is 'Spring.' The musicians start to play, and Mum exits.

## Spring 1: Spring Cleaning

Music: La Primavera I, Allegro- Upbeat and bouncing, with some fast, loud moments



Cleaners enter with mops, buckets, dusters, and brooms. They are surprised that the musicians are on stage, and they clean carefully, so they don't disturb them. As the music swells, they clean faster. Suddenly the cleaners encounter a stubborn bit of dirt. The musicians play hard, and the cleaners scrub hard. The stage now clean, the cleaners move to the front of the stage, to clean a giant window. They spray water on the invisible window and wipe it with cloths.

## Spring 2: Flower Forest

Music: La Primavera II, Largo- Gentle and slow



The actors enter and become trees. Spring flowers appear from their hands. Mum enters and gathers the blossoms in her basket. The actors create bright green shoots growing up from the ground, and Mum enjoys the beauty of the forest.

## Spring 3: Washing Day

Music: La Primavera III, Allegro- Upbeat and bouncing



Mum brings out sheets in a washing basket. The actors become the poles for the washing line, and Mum hangs the sheets with help from her son. The washing transforms into a rotary clothesline, and the son spins it round and round. The clothesline breaks apart and the actors become children playing among the sheets. At the end of the play, Mum is back, taking the sheets off the children as they scurry away. A piwakawaka enters, fluttering to the birdbath and splashes in the water. Mum leaves, followed by the piwakawaka.

## Summer Crossword

No music



Two piwakawaka enter and fly to the birdbath. It is empty. Mum enters, fills up the birdbath and watches the piwakawaka splashing in the water. The birds exit and Mum settles into her chair with the crossword. Mum reads the clue and fills in the answer- "Summer." The music begins, and Mum leaves, fanning herself in the summer heat.

## Summer 1: Christmastime

Music: L'Estate I, Allegro Non Molto- A mix of gentle and slow and fast and exciting

It's hot. People slowly cross the stage under the blazing sun, wearing hats and sunglasses.



Suddenly, the music speeds up as Christmas shoppers rush around with bags and presents. The shoppers frantically untangle tinsel and exit to hang the decorations.

Mum pulls a large gold present from a white block on the stage. She finishes wrapping it and puts it by her chair. In a flurry, actors rush on to create a life-sized advent calendar. The giant calendar flap pop open as the days count down toward Christmas, revealing a different toys and games. The advent calendar dissolves and a child sneaks in to peek at the gold present.



Two more children come to peek at the present, freezing as Mum enters. Mum doesn't see the children, and they sneak off with the gold present. The actors rush on again to form the advent calendar, which counts down all the way till Christmas. It ends in a Christmas nativity scene.

## Summer 2: Boxing Day at the Beach

Music: L'Etat II, Adagio- Gentle and slow with fast loud moments



Everyone is relaxing at the beach. The relaxing day is interrupted by the threat of thunder. The beachgoers spring to their feet, opening umbrellas and looking up at the storm clouds. The thunder stops, and everyone settles back down. But suddenly the thunder is back! Everyone jumps up. This happens several times, till the beachgoers give up on their beach day and leave the stage.

**Note:** The thunder is created by the cello playing low and fast. This will be demonstrated at the start of the show.

## Summer 3: Going on Holiday

Music: L'Estate III, Presto- Fast and exciting



A family is going on holiday. They form a line, passing suitcases, beach toys, towels, and a goldfish bowl down the line to pack the car. One of the family realises that the car keys are missing. They unload the car, passing everything back down the line until the keys are revealed. In a rush, they pile in the car with all their gear, and drive comically with plenty of swerves and bumps, to their holiday destination. One of the family members is car sick from the wild ride, and everyone leaves the car and exits.

# Autumn Crossword

## No music



Mum enters, but forgets to fill up the birdbath with water. Mum goes straight to the crossword and reads the next clue. The answer is "Autumn". Mum fills it in, then exits to freshen up a cup of tea.

## Autumn 1: Time for School

Music: L'Autunno I, Allegro - Upbeat and bouncing



Children march on with their school bags and school hats, on their way to school. They fetch apples and tuck them in to their bags. They arrive at school and sit around the teacher, raising hands and waving notebooks. The lesson ends and the students have their morning tea, and then have play time. The students play in slow motion as a piwakawaka flutters in and around the students. There's no water in the birdbath! The piwakawaka tries to tell the students, and flutters off stage. The music speeds up and the students end their play time, grab their school bags, and march home.

## Autumn 2: Raking Leaves

Music: L'Autunno II, Adagio Molto - Slow and gentle



Autumn leaves fall gently onto the stage. Workers enter with rakes, and slowly rake up the leaves. One by one, each worker pretends their rake is an instrument, and they form an imaginary band as one worker dances. The music stops, and the workers stay on stage in dreamy silence. Suddenly, the next piece of music begins, and the workers all scramble off the stage.

## Autumn 3: Autumn Harvest

Music: L'Autunno III, Allegro - Upbeat and fast



Workers enter with supplies for preserving apples. They greet each other until the fruit picker enters with a basket of apples. The workers line up and pass an apple down the line, peeling, chopping, and mixing the apples. The orchardist (orchard owner) walks in with a tray, and a worker scoops apples into two jars. The orchardist leaves with the full jars and returns with two empty jars. The workers pass apples down the line, the fruit picker coming in to fill up the tub with apples from his basket. The workers get faster and faster as the music speeds up, until it's finally time for a break. The orchardist walks in with morning tea on a tray. She pulls aside the cloth and reveals apples for them to eat. The workers don't want an apple snack, so the orchardist leaves and they start working again, faster and faster until the music ends.

## Winter Crossword No music



Mum enters and fills up the bird bath. She sits down with her hot cup of tea and looks for the next crossword clue. The answer is “Winter”. She fills in the answer, and leaves with her tea, quoting a line from Shakespeare.

## Winter 1: Wintery Weather

Music: L'Inverno I, Allegro Non Molto - Starts gently, gets faster and louder with slow moments

It's raining. One by one, actors poke their heads out of the side curtains, unhappy about going out in the rain. They scurry across stage with backpacks over their heads. Suddenly they burst on stage with umbrellas, getting pushed back and forth by the rain. One person almost gets blown away!



They put away their umbrellas and return to the stage as commuters sheltering under their backpacks waiting for a bus. The commuters signal for the bus to stop, but the bus drives past them. This happens once more before all but one person gives up and leaves.

They return with their umbrellas in a line, tapping their feet and twirling the umbrellas until the wind starts blowing them around the stage and off.



The lone person at the bus stop tries to flag the bus, but the bus drives on by. He leaves the stage, jumping and dodging around puddles.

## Winter 2: Jumping in Puddles

Music: L'Inverno II, Largo- Bright and upbeat



Children jump in puddles, splashing each other with water and enjoying the rain. Two piwakawaka flutter over to the birdbath, jumping in and out of the water. The children copy them and splash each other. The piwakawaka fly away, and the children follow.

## Winter 3: Snowball Fight

Music: L'Inverno III, Allegro- Upbeat, with a mix of gentle slow and loud fast bits



Snow falls gently from above. The actors carry armfuls of winter clothing onto the stage, and they slowly get dressed in hats, coats, scarves, and gloves. They slip and slide on the icy ground, some falling to the floor or even doing the splits. One actor forms a snowball as the others try not to slip. With a flourish of music, the actor throws the snowball, and all join in a furious snowball fight. As the music ends they happily collapse to the ground.