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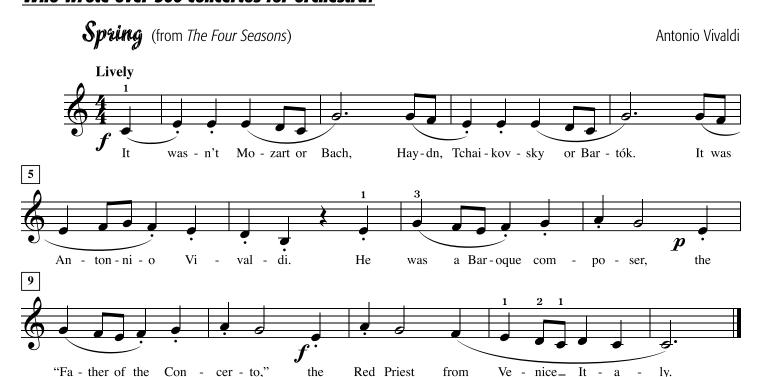
## **Symphonic History** (in Song)

The melodies that follow are taken from music that you will study later in the book. The words to the melodies answer questions that relate to the history of symphonic music.

Practice directions: • First, play the melody with the correct fingerings.

• Then sing the words as you play the melody.

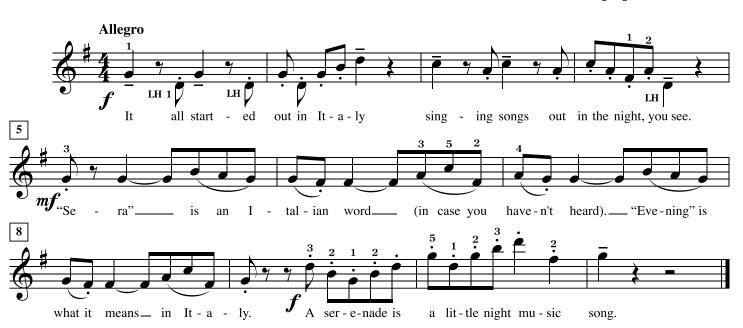
## Who wrote over 500 concertos for orchestra?



#### Where does the word "serenade" come from?

### Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



### About the Form

#### **CONCERTO**

The word *concerto* means "performing together"—a combined effort by a variety of different performers. A concerto is often written for a soloist who plays along with the orchestra. However, many concertos of the 17th and 18th centuries are simply ensemble (group) pieces, without featuring one soloist. Vivaldi's *Spring* is this type of concerto, known as a *concerto grosso*, in which a small group of players is featured within the larger group.

# About the Composer

#### **ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)**

Antonio Vivaldi, one of the greatest composers of the Baroque period, was born in Venice, Italy during an earthquake. Vivaldi became not only a great composer and violinist, but he was also a priest. He was nicknamed the "Red Priest" because of his bright red hair. After he left the priesthood, Vivaldi took a job teaching music at an orphanage for girls in Venice. His students were so talented that people would travel long distances to hear them perform the music that Vivaldi wrote for them.



Unlike other Baroque composers, Vivaldi did not compose for solo keyboard. However, he was a master of the concerto form (he composed about 500) and is often called the "Father of the Concerto." Vivaldi also wrote sonatas, operas and choral music for the church. He helped popularize the three-movement concerto, which influenced the work of later composers such as Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

For many years of his life, Vivaldi enjoyed popularity as a composer; he even worked for royalty all over Europe. At the end of his life, however, he lost his fame and died a poor man. He was buried in a pauper's grave and much of his music was forgotten. Over 100 years later, musicians discovered arrangements of Vivaldi's music that had been done by Johann Sebastian Bach when he was just a boy. And almost 200 years after Vivaldi's death, most of his manuscripts—which had been hidden away in a private collection—were rediscovered. Both the Bach arrangements and the newly found manuscripts renewed Vivaldi's popularity, making him once again a favorite composer from the Baroque era.