



MUSIC  
BOX

WEALDEN

# Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* by Candlelight

PURCELL *Chacony in G minor*

VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*

Led by violinist Jonathan Truscott

28 February 2026, 7pm

St. Andrew's, Alfriston BN26 5TL

**VIOLIN**

Jonathan Truscott  
Liz Norton

**VIOLA**

Adrian Smith

**CELLO**

Dan Burrowes

**DOUBLE BASS**

Sophie Meikle

**HARPSICHORD**

Petra Hajduchova



WEALDEN

[musicboxwealden.co.uk](https://musicboxwealden.co.uk)

*Classical music on your doorstep*

## HENRY PURCELL

### *Chacony in G minor*

After the English Civil War, for 18 years of Puritan rule under Cromwell's Commonwealth all theatres were closed.

Their reopening in 1660 on the Restoration of Charles II, the 'merry monarch', marked the beginning of a theatrical revival – and it's likely that Purcell's *Chacony in G minor*, written about 1680, began life as incidental music for a play, though it may also have been used for dancing at court.

Appointed by Charles II as Composer for the King's Strings in 1677, Purcell may well have wished to satisfy his royal employer's strong preference for music to which he could stand and tap his foot – a habit he had apparently learnt during his stay at Versailles.

**Benjamin Britten**, a passionate admirer of Purcell's music, made this arrangement for string quartet in 1947. The music is structured around four descending notes of a minor scale.

## ANTONIO VIVALDI

### *The Four Seasons*

We often associate programme music with the 19th century - it was Franz Liszt, after all, who invented the term to describe instrumental music which references something outside the music itself – a story, a poem or a landscape, for instance. But there are plenty of examples in the 18th century and before – Rameau's famous keyboard piece of 1728 *La poule*, depicting a chicken, would be one.

But nothing approaches the scale or the detail of the depictions in the four violin concertos which make up Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, one of the most famous pieces of programme music ever written. It dates from the early 1720s, or perhaps a little before and is accompanied by sonnets, possibly written by Vivaldi himself, which explain the themes which the music illustrates.

The seasons are evoked with astonishing vividness - there are flowing streams, birds of many kinds, the shepherd's barking dog, buzzing flies, storms and drunken dancers; there are hunting parties, frozen landscapes and warm winter fires.

## SPRING

### *Concerto No. 1 in E major*

#### Allegro

*Spring has come with joy  
Welcomed by birds with joyous songs,  
And the streams, amid gentle breezes,  
Whisper softly as they sink.  
The sky is covered in black and  
Thunder and lightning announce the storm  
When they are silent, the birds  
Resume their delicious songs.*

#### Largo and pianissimo sempre

*And in the pleasant flowery meadow,  
To the soft murmur of leaves and plants,  
The goatherd sleeps, his faithful dog by his side.*

#### Allegro

*To the happy sound of a rustic bagpipe,  
Nymphs and shepherds dance in their favourite place  
When spring appears in all its glory.*

## SUMMER

### *Concerto no 2 in G minor*

#### Allegro non molto

*Under the unforgiving sun of the season  
The man and the herd are languishing,  
the pine is burning,  
The cuckoo begins to sing and immediately  
The dove and the goldfinch join him.  
A light breeze is blowing, but Boreas  
Woke up to suddenly fight with his neighbour,  
And the shepherd cries because above his head  
The formidable storm and its destiny.*

#### Adagio

*His weary limbs are deprived of rest  
Fear of lightning and scary thunder  
And flies and hornets swarming.*

#### Presto

*Alas, his fears come true:  
Thunder and lightning are raging in the skies.  
And the hail cuts down the great wheat.*

## AUTUMN

### *Concerto No. 3 in F major*

#### Allegro

*The peasant celebrates by dancing and singing  
The pleasure of the rich harvest,  
And full of Bacchus liquor  
They end their rejoicings with a sleep.*

#### Adagio molto

*Each peasant ceases his dance and song.  
The mild air gives pleasure,  
And the season invites many  
To enjoy a sweet slumber.*

#### Allegro

*The hunters, at the break of dawn, go to the hunt.  
With horns, guns, and dogs they are off,  
The beast flees, and they follow its trail.  
Already fearful and exhausted by the great noise,  
Of guns and dogs, and wounded,  
The exhausted beast tries to flee, but dies.*

## WINTER

### *Concerto No. 4 in F minor*

#### Allegro non molto

*Frozen and shivering in the icy snow,  
Under the battering of a terrible wind  
Run stamping your feet every moment,  
Teeth chattering in the cold.*

#### Largo

*Spend calm and happy moments by the fire  
While outside the rain sprinkles everyone.*

#### Allegro

*Walking on the ice with hesitant steps,  
By being careful, lest you fall.  
Jump in haste, slip, and fall to the ground,  
Get back on the ice and run,  
In case the ice cracks and opens.  
To hear, leaving their screened house, Sirocco,  
Boreas, and all the winds in battle...  
It's winter, but it brings joy.*

## NEXT CONCERTS

28 March 2026, 6pm

**BACH St. John Passion**

at Holy Cross Church

Uckfield TN22 1BP

25 April 2026, 7pm

**Reawakening with The Symphonova**

at Church of St Mary the Virgin

Eastbourne BN21 1HS

## JOIN US

---

Join a vibrant, friendly and sustainable community of music lovers. Become a Member and gain free access to all our concerts in exchange for one monthly subscription.

View details of all our events at [musicboxwealden.co.uk](https://musicboxwealden.co.uk)

---

