• **Antonio Vivaldi** (1678-1741), violinist, “the red priest,” Pieta School for Girls orchestra (one of the most renown orchestras in Europe) - wrote 450 concerti.

  **Solo Concerto** - solo instrument(s) – contrast with orchestra (basso continuo+ strings)
  Solo sections (solo instrument + basso continuo) vs. tutti (entire ensemble)

  **ritornello form** – alternation between solo sections and tutti (ritornelli)

  *Spring from The Four Seasons* [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFHPRi0ZeXE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFHPRi0ZeXE)

• **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750)

  **Bio**
  Born in Eisenach, Germany to a family of musicians,
  stole into older brother’s study at night, copied music by moonlight
  once walked 30 miles to hear Buxtehude perform on the organ
  employed as a church organist & noble court musician including posts at Weimar, and Cöthen,
  employed for the last 27 years of his life at the St. Thomas Church (Lutheran) in Leipzig: busy!
  - composed music for Sunday/holiday services, almost 300 cantatas for voices and orchestra
  - rehearsed the musicians, taught at the church school, and had 20 children,
  - Bach was a devout Lutheran.

  **His music** brought the Baroque style to its zenith
  - within each piece, there is a certain sameness, consistency and continuity of the sound:
    rhythm - driving, unceasing, ever present
    melody - ornate, flowing, expanding, unfolding
    texture - complex, incessantly polyphonic

  - harpsichord: *AMB notebook* compiled for his 2nd wife Anna Magdalena (13 children)
    1st wife Maria Barbara, his 1st cousin (7 children, including C.P.E. Bach a progenitor of the classical style). Minuet in G [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqSAGwa49MM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqSAGwa49MM)

  - Well Tempered Clavier I & II
    - Preludes and Fugues demonstrating the new possibilities of keys from well temperament
      Prelude – in an improvisational, extemporaneous style
      Fugue – a chase of melodies (subject vs. countersubject), imitative polyphony
    
    **Prelude and Fugue in C Major from WTC I**
    [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNfAlIBgnyg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNfAlIBgnyg)

  Best known in his time not as a composer, but as an organist/harpsichordist/improviser -
  - organ music
    **Toccata and Fugue in d minor** *(improvisation probably sounded like this)*
    [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Aej0vQJNQA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Aej0vQJNQA)

  Another example of a fugue, here for organ: **Little Fugue in g minor**
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDbxFi3-U04](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDbxFi3-U04)
- Concerti: solo: keyboard, instrumental (interchangeable solo instruments, i.e. violin/keyboard)
  concerto grosso: *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5* – multiple solo instruments
  Cadenza – an often improvised solo for a solo instrument
  
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnjqGhAlFzs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnjqGhAlFzs)
  
  perfect example of currying favor the nobility (in this case, a job) -
  
  Dedication to Margrave Christian Ludwig
  As I had the good fortune a few years ago to be heard by Your Royal Highness, at Your Highness's commands, and as I noticed then that Your Highness took some pleasure in the little talents which Heaven has given me for Music, and as in taking Leave of Your Royal Highness, Your Highness deigned to honour me with the command to send Your Highness some pieces of my Composition: I have in accordance with Your Highness's most gracious orders taken the liberty of rendering my most humble duty to Your Royal Highness with the present Concertos, which I have adapted to several instruments; begging Your Highness most humbly not to judge their imperfection with the rigor of that discriminating and sensitive taste, which everyone knows Him to have for musical works, but rather to take into benign Consideration the profound respect and the most humble obedience which I thus attempt to show Him. ...Bach did not get the job.

Margrave Christian Ludwig of Brandenburg-Schwedt