



From top to bottom: Versailles Palace, France; Baroque theater, Krumlov Castle

Baroque Bonanza

Family Concert, December 28, 2021

St. Francis Auditorium

The Santa Fe Pro Musica Orchestra

Colin Jacobsen, violin soloist and leader

Here you will find information that supplements the Baroque Bonanza Family Concert video. On this video you will hear music from the Baroque Period (1600–1750). This was a time marked by extravagant and florid architecture. Baroque music was also highly decorated and representational (inspired by nature and literature).

On this program you will hear the music of three of the Baroque Period's most famous composers, Telemann, Bach, and Vivaldi.



Georg Philipp Telemann (1681–1767) is listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the most prolific composer, with almost 2,000 works attributed to him. He was especially famous for his clever musical depictions on a wide variety of subjects. His musical recreation of Miguel de Cervantes' novel *Don Quixote* (1605) has been described as “one of the most brilliantly imaginative” of all Baroque pieces. It is a masterpiece of characters and events recreated through music and includes windmills, donkeys, damsels, and dreams.



Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) wrote music to meet the demands of his employers. Early in his career he wrote church music because he was employed by the church. There was a period of time (1717–1723) when he worked for the royal court of Prince Leopold, and this is when Bach wrote much of his non-church music, including the *Concerto for Two Violins* that you will hear on this video. Later Bach was employed as the music teacher at a boy's school, director of music at a coffee house, and once again, for several churches. Bach not only adapted, but ended up writing some of the greatest music ever written. Just part of his job!



Antonio Vivaldi (1687–1741) was trained as a Catholic priest but was also a virtuoso violinist. He taught music at an all girl’s orphanage where the ensembles under his direction were considered some of the finest in Europe—“It ranks first for the perfection of its concerts!” (French scholar Charles De Brosse, 1709–1777). And it was for these students that Vivaldi wrote much of his music. His most famous piece is *The Four Seasons*, a set of four concertos (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn) for violin and orchestra that evokes the sights and sounds of the seasons, including slipping on ice in winter, spring rains, dogs barking in summer, and hunters in the autumn.



The leader of this concert is violinist **Colin Jacobsen**, considered “one of the most interesting figures on the classical music scene” (*Washington Post*). Please visit his website where you can find a complete biography, and audio and video samples of his violin playing, ensemble leading and compositions (yes, he’s a composer too!). <http://www.colinjacobsen.com>