

Name _____

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Antonio Vivaldi was born in 1678 in Venice, Italy. His grandfather, who was a violinist, taught Antonio to play the violin, and they toured Venice playing together. When he was 15, Antonio started studying to be a priest, and 10 years later he was ordained. His nickname was // *Prete Rosso*, which means “the red priest”—he had a head full of bright red hair! Because he was often ill, Antonio was only a priest for three years. He decided to pursue a career in music instead. For a long time he was a teacher at a girl’s orphanage. He enjoyed writing music for the girls to play, and many people attended concerts there to hear Vivaldi’s music. Vivaldi’s music is light-hearted and happy and was very popular during his lifetime. His most famous piece is called *The Four Seasons*. It was written in 1723 and is meant to be played on the violin. Though much of his music was lost, pieces that were written by him are occasionally still discovered. Many people consider him to be the most important Italian composer that ever lived.

1. What was Vivaldi’s first choice of career?

2. Describe Vivaldi’s musical life while teaching at the girl’s orphanage.

3. What is Vivaldi’s most famous piece of music?

Answer Key

1. Music instructor

2. He enjoyed writing music for the girls to play, and many people attended concerts there to hear his music.

3. *The Four Seasons*