

*20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season*

**Performing Arts Series**

and  
Columbia Artists Management LLC

*present*

**The Seasons  
Project**

Robert McDuffie, Violin Soloist & Leader

with

The Venice Baroque Orchestra

**Saturday, October 16, 2010**

**Yardley Hall**

**Johnson County Community College**

*Underwritten in part by the  
Arthur and Alma Yardley Endowment, JCCC Foundation,  
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## **The Seasons Project\***

Le Quattro Stagioni ..... Antonio Vivaldi  
(1678-1741)

### *The Four Seasons*

- I. La primavera, E Major (Spring)
- II. L'estate, G minor (Summer)
- III. L'autunno, F Major (Autumn)
- IV. L'inverno, F minor (Winter)

### **– Intermission –**

Violin Concerto No. 2 for Violin & Orchestra\*\* . . . . . Philip Glass  
(b. 1937)

### *The American Four Seasons*

\*World Premiere Tour

\*\*Mid-America Premiere co-commissioned by the Performing Arts Series

Tour Direction:  
COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT LLC  
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## Le Quattro Stagioni – The Four Seasons

**Antonio Vivaldi** was without a doubt the most original and influential Italian composer of his generation. His contributions to musical style, violin technique and the practice of orchestration were substantial. Vivaldi could also be credited as being one of the pioneers in the creation of programmatic orchestral music, his Opus 8 *Four Seasons concerti* being the most salient example. His most important achievement, however, was laying the foundations for the mature Baroque concerto. Vivaldi's influence on the form was so strong that even many of the older, established composers of the time felt obliged to modify their style in mid-career to conform with Vivaldi's developments. Practically all of the composer's *concerti* are in three movements - quick, slow, quick. This "Vivaldian mode" was adopted in most of Italy and in France by 1725 and remains to this date as the standard form throughout Western culture.

Vivaldi's *Il cimento dell'armonia e del invenzione, Op. 8* ("The Contest Between Harmony and Invention") was first published in Amsterdam in 1725; this opus is a collection of 12 *concerti*, the first four of which are known as *The Four Seasons*. These "seasonal" *concerti* are "programmatic" as each one describes the events in an anonymous sonnet, these poems suspected of having been written by the composer himself. Vivaldi, while not the first to employ such a device, was unique in his care to make the music agree with the subject matter of the poetry, within the stylistic parameters of the day. The murmuring stream, the approaching storm indicated by lightning and thunder, the oppressive atmosphere of the summer heat, the melody depicting the hunter's call, or the snow propelled by freezing winds - all this is made a living experience by Vivaldi's music.

*The Four Seasons* represents the peak of Vivaldi's work. Most likely introduced by the composer (who was a virtuoso violinist himself), these *concerti* became immediately successful throughout Europe. With the combination of descriptive detail, the outpouring of melody and the brilliant, virtuosic writing for the violin, all within an elegant formal framework, it is no wonder that the concertos that make up *The Four Seasons* are among the best-loved works of all time.

## Violin Concerto No. 2 – The American Four Seasons

**Philip Glass** composed the Violin Concerto No. 2 for Robert McDuffie in the summer and autumn of 2009. The work was preceded by several years of occasional exchanges between McDuffie and Glass. “Bobby was interested in music that would serve as a companion piece to the Vivaldi *Four Seasons* concertos. I agreed to the idea of a four-movement work, but at the outset was not sure how that correspondence would work in practice - between the Vivaldi concertos and my own music. However, Bobby encouraged me to start with my composition and we would see in due time how it would relate to the very well known original.

“When the music was completed, I sent it on to Bobby, who seemed to have quickly seen how the movements of my Concerto No. 2 related to the *Seasons*. Of course, Bobby’s interpretation, though similar to my own, proved to be also somewhat different. This struck me as an opportunity, then, for the listener to make his/her own interpretation. Therefore, there will be no instructions for the audience, no clues as to where Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall might appear in the new concerto – an interesting, though not worrisome, problem for the listener. After all, if Bobby and I are not in complete agreement, an independent interpretation can be tolerated and even welcomed. (The mathematical possibilities, or permutations, of the puzzle are in the order of  $2^4$ .)

“Apart from that, I would only add that, instead of the usual cadenza, I provided a number of solo pieces for Bobby - thinking that they could be played together as separate concert music when abstracted from the whole work. They appear in the concerto as a ‘prelude’ to the first movement and three ‘songs’ that precede each of the following three movements.”

–Philip Glass

## **Robert McDuffie**

Grammy-nominated artist Robert McDuffie has appeared as soloist with most of the major orchestras of the world, including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics; Chicago, San Francisco, National, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, St. Louis, Montreal and Toronto Symphonies; Philadelphia, Cleveland and Minnesota Orchestras; Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra; North German Radio Orchestra; Frankfurt Radio Orchestra; Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen; Hamburg Symphony Orchestra; Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala; Santa Cecilia Orchestra of Rome; Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra; Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional de Mexico; Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería; and all of the major orchestras of Australia.

His recent appearances abroad have been at the Royal Festival Hall in London with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Philharmonie in Cologne, the Seoul Arts Center in South Korea, the National Concert Hall in Taipei and at the Musikhalle in Hamburg.

In December 2009, he gave the World Premiere Performance of Philip Glass's Violin Concerto No. 2, *The American Four Seasons* – a work specially written for Robert McDuffie – with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. During the 2010-2011 season, McDuffie will embark on a 30-city U.S. tour with the Venice Baroque Orchestra, pairing the Glass *American Four Seasons* with the Vivaldi *Four Seasons*. He will also perform *The American Four Seasons* as soloist with the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra, Prague Philharmonia at the Prague Spring Festival, National Symphony of Mexico, Poznan Philharmonic of Poland, and the Nashville, Louisiana and San Antonio Symphonies. He will play the Barber Violin Concerto with the Utah and Madison Symphonies. Additional engagements this season include performances with the Zürich Chamber Orchestra at the Zürich Tonhalle and a U.S. tour with the McDuffie-Dutton-Kirshbaum Trio.

Robert McDuffie recorded *The American Four Seasons* with the London Philharmonic and Marin Alsop on the Orange Mountain Music label. His acclaimed Telarc and EMI recordings include the violin concertos of Mendelssohn, Bruch, Adams, Glass, Barber, Rozsa, Bernstein, William Schuman and Viennese violin favorites. He has been profiled on NBC's *Today*, CBS *Sunday Morning*, PBS's *Charlie Rose*, A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts*, and in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Future plans include a U.S. tour in 2012 with the Düsseldorf Symphony and Andrey Boreyko, performing the Mendelssohn and Bruch Violin Concertos. Future tours of *The American Four Seasons*, paired with the Vivaldi *Four Seasons*, have been planned in Europe for the fall of 2011 and in Asia for the fall of 2012.

Robert McDuffie is the founder of the Rome Chamber Music Festival. He was recently awarded the prestigious Premio Simpatia by the Mayor of Rome in recognition of his contribution to the city's cultural life. Robert McDuffie holds the Genelle and Mansfield Jennings Distinguished University Professor Chair at Mercer University in his hometown of Macon, Georgia, and this season, the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University will celebrate its fourth academic year with concerts conducted by Maestro Robert Spano. Robert McDuffie lives in New York with his wife and two children. He plays a 1735 Guarneri del Gesu violin, known as the "Ladenburg."

For more information, please visit [www.cami.com](http://www.cami.com), [www.robertmcduffie.com](http://www.robertmcduffie.com) and [www.facebook.com/robertmcduffieviolin](http://www.facebook.com/robertmcduffieviolin).

## Venice Baroque Orchestra

Founded in 1997 by Baroque scholar and harpsichordist Andrea Marcon, the Venice Baroque Orchestra is recognized as one of the premier ensembles devoted to period instrument performance. The Orchestra has received wide critical acclaim for its concert and opera performances throughout North America, Europe, South America and Japan. Since its U.S. debut in 2001 at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, the Orchestra has performed in more cities in the U.S. than any other period instrument orchestra.

Committed to the rediscovery of first-rate 17th and 18th century masterpieces, the VBO has given the modern-day premieres of Francesco Cavalli's *L'Orione*, Vivaldi's *Atenaide* and *Andromeda liberata*, Benedetto Marcello's *La Morte D'Adone* and *Il trionfo della poesia e della musica*. With Teatro La Fenice in Venice, the Orchestra staged Handel's *Siroe* in 2000, followed by equally successful stagings of Cimarosa's *L'Olimpiade* in 2001 and Galuppi's *L'Olimpiade* in 2006. The Orchestra reprised *Siroe* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York in its first full staging in the United States. In Spain in 2009, the VBO gave the modern-day premiere of Boccherini's *La Clementina*. In addition to this 27-city tour with violinist Robert McDuffie, highlights of the current season include a tour to Japan and Korea with violinist Giuliano Carmignola; concerts with soprano Patricia Petibon in Austria, France, Germany and Turkey; a tour in Germany with cellist Gautier Capuçon; and concerts with mezzo-soprano Romina Basso in Italy and Poland. The VBO will perform Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* in Paris and the Monteverdi *Vespers* in Leipzig. In recent seasons, the Orchestra has also performed with Cecilia Bartoli, Anna Netrebko, Sara Mingardo and Andreas Scholl. A highlight of summer 2011 will be a festival tour in Austria, Germany and Switzerland with mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kožená singing arias of Vivaldi and Handel.

The VBO has an extensive discography with Sony and Deutsche Grammophon. Its world-premiere recording of *Andromeda liberata* for DGG was followed by two recordings of violin concertos with Giuliano Carmignola, an album of Vivaldi sinfonias and concertos for strings, Vivaldi motets and arias with soprano Simone Kermes, two discs with Ms. Kožená—Handel arias and Vivaldi arias, and Vivaldi concertos for two violins with Viktoria Mullova and Giuliano Carmignola. Its newest album, of Italian arias with Ms. Petibon, has just been released.

The Orchestra's earlier discography on Sony includes *The Four Seasons*, two albums of previously unrecorded Vivaldi concertos, Locatelli violin concertos, and a collection of Bach arias featuring Angelika Kirchschrager. For its recordings, the Orchestra has been honored with the Diapason D'Or, Choc du Monde de la Musique, Echo Award and the Edison Award.

Its concerts have been filmed by the BBC and NHK, and broadcast by RadioFrance, France Musiques, ORF, RaiDue, BBC3, National Public Radio, RadioTre and Arte. The Venice Baroque Orchestra is supported by Fondazione Cassamarca in Treviso. The Orchestra appears on this U.S. tour courtesy of Alliance Artist Management.

## Venice Baroque Orchestra

### **First Violins**

Luca Mares  
Michele Lot  
Stefano Zanchetta  
Giuseppe Cabrio  
Nicola Mansutti

### **Second Violins**

Giorgio Baldan  
Gianpiero Zanocco  
Daniele Ruzza  
David Mazzacan

### **Violas**

Alessandra Di Vincenzo  
Meri Skejic  
Paolo Pasoli

### **Cellos**

Francesco Galligioni  
Daniele Bovo  
Giuseppe Barutti

### **Doublebass**

Alessandro Sbrogiò

### **Lute**

Ivano Zanenghi

### **Harpsichord / Synthesizer**

Luca De Marchi