



VIVALDI

*The Four
Seasons*

The Starling Chamber Orchestra
Kurt Sassmannshaus, Director



Jessica Park plays the
Joseph Guarneri del Gesu, 1737, "ex-Goodman"

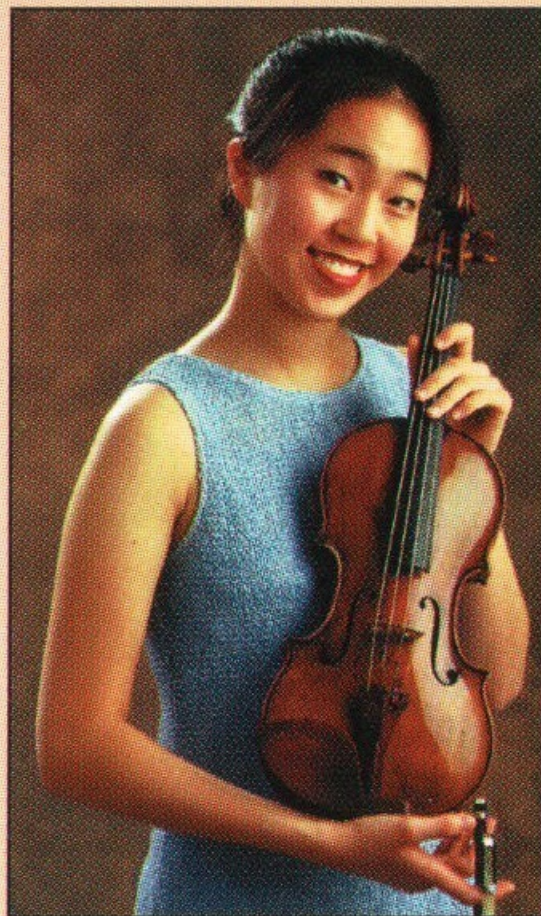
Spring



Tania Davison plays the
Antonio Stradivarius, 1732

Summer





JESSICA PARK, age 16 at the time of this recording, has been called “an exceptional violin talent” by the *Frankfurter Neue Presse*. She began violin studies at the age of four. In 1993, at the age of nine, Jessica became the youngest soloist to perform with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra when she played under the baton of Keith Lockhart. Jessica has studied with Kurt Sassmannshaus in Cincinnati and Aspen since 1990. In 1998 she performed as soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and in the spring of 1999 gave a recital in Graz, Austria under the auspices of the Karl Böhm Foundation. A frequent soloist with the Starling Chamber Orchestra, Jessica can be heard as soloist with the Starling Chamber Orchestra on “Aspen Serenade” and “Simply Brilliant!”, the highly acclaimed CDs released by the Starling Project Foundation. She is featured in the SCO’s award-winning video, *Classical Quest*, and was a soloist during the SCO’s three-week tour to China in March 2000.

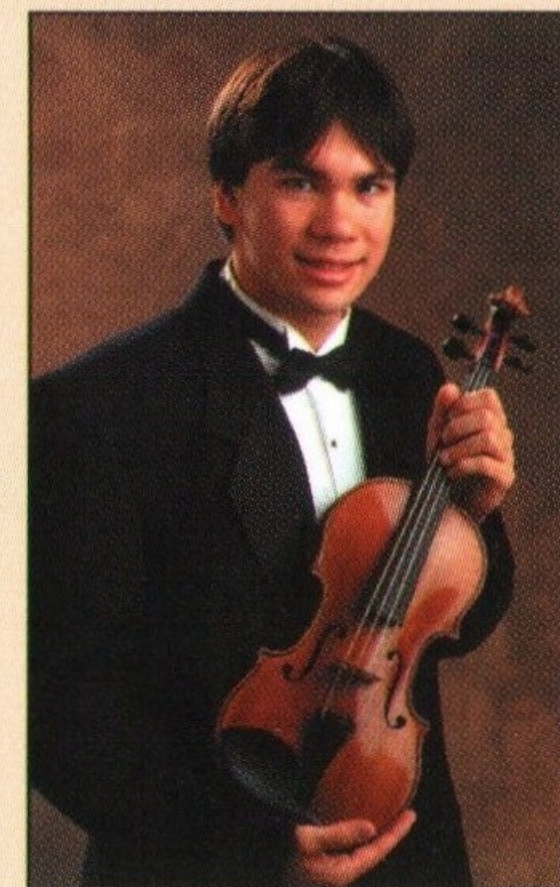


TANIA DAVISON, age 22 at the time of this recording, began violin studies at age five. At age ten, she began violin studies with Kurt Sassmannshaus at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as a Starling Preparatory String Project student. She has performed as soloist with numerous orchestras and at the Aspen Music Festival. Tania can be heard as soloist on “Simply Brilliant!”, the SCO’s acclaimed CD, and is a featured performer in the SCO’s award-winning video, *Classical Quest*. She was also a soloist during the Starling Chamber Orchestra’s tour to China in March 2000. In 1995 she recorded Giornovich’s Violin Concerto No. 8 with the Starling Chamber Orchestra for the Arte Nova Classics label.

EUN-MEE JEONG, age 17 at the time of this recording, hails from Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, and has commuted to Cincinnati weekly to study with Kurt Sassmannshaus. Eun-Mee has performed as soloist with the Starling Chamber Orchestra and the Chattanooga Symphony on many occasions. In 1993, at age eleven, she won the Tennessee Music Teachers Association Competition. In February 1997, she appeared as soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Mozart’s Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major. In March 2000, Eun-Mee was a featured soloist with the Starling Chamber Orchestra during its three-week tour to the People’s Republic of China. Eun-Mee can be heard as soloist with the Starling Chamber Orchestra on “Simply Brilliant!”, the highly acclaimed CD released in 1999 by the Starling Project Foundation, and is a featured performer in the SCO’s award-winning video, *Classical Quest*.



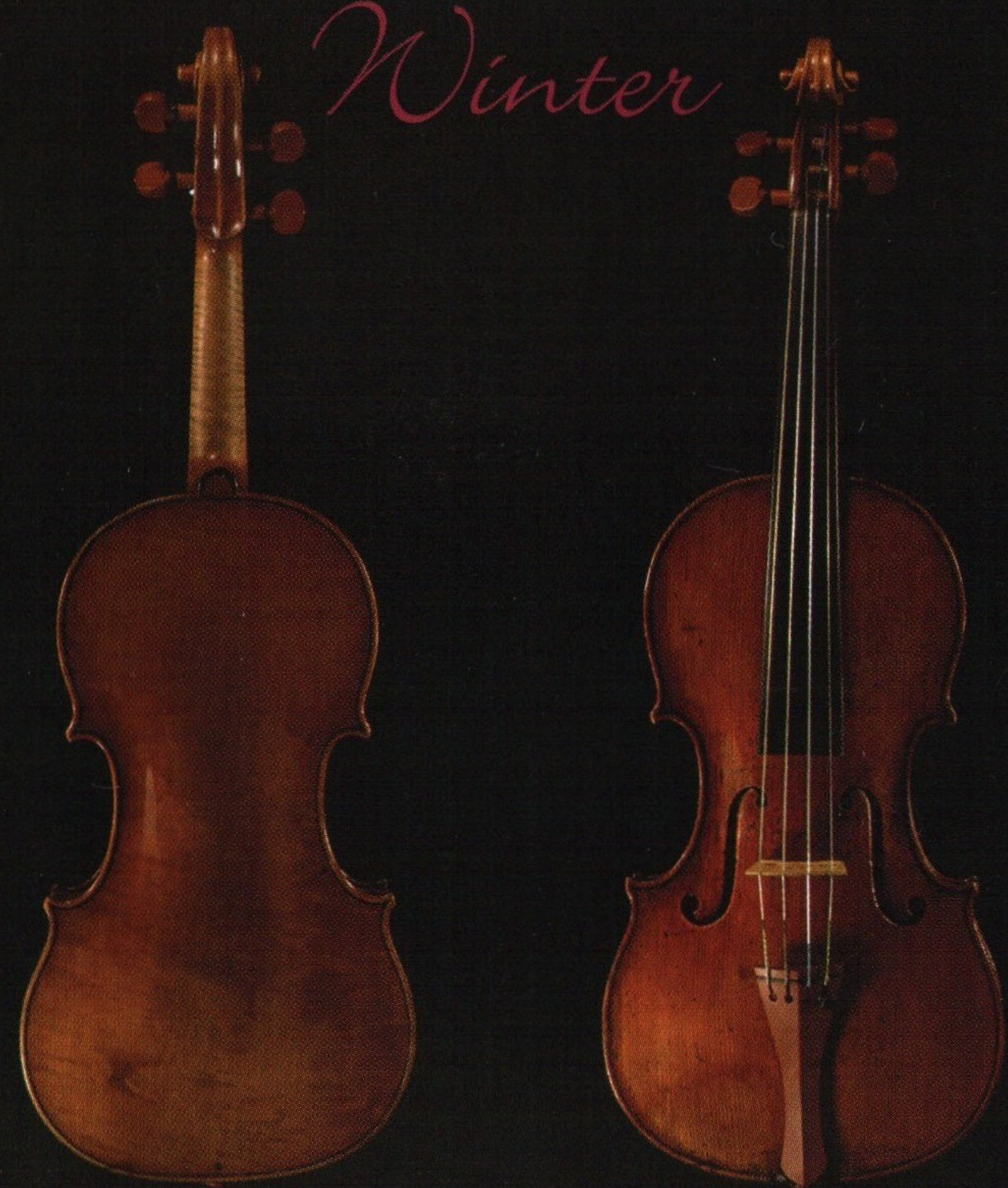
TIMOTHY O’NEILL, age 19 at the time of this recording, is an alumnus of the Starling Preparatory String Project. He began violin studies at the age of three and has studied with Kurt Sassmannshaus since age seven. As winner of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, he performed as soloist with the combined CSYO/Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in March 1996. Timothy has been a scholarship student at the Aspen Music Festival and School for many years and is pursuing undergraduate studies at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He has appeared frequently as a soloist with the Starling Chamber Orchestra, most recently during its three-week tour to China in March 2000. Timothy can be heard as soloist on the SCO’s CD, “Simply Brilliant!”, and is a featured performer in the Starling Chamber Orchestra’s award-winning video, *Classical Quest*. A talented composer, Timothy studied with Gerhard Samuel in Cincinnati and George Tsontakis at the Aspen Music Festival, and currently studies with Joel Hoffman. Timothy’s works include *Three Impressions of the Sea* for violin; a string quartet and other chamber works. The Starling Chamber Orchestra gave the world premiere of his (*Symphonic*) *Expressions for Chamber Orchestra* in May 1996.



Eun-Mee Jeong plays the
Joseph Guarneri del Gesu, 1732, "ex-Ferni"



Timothy O'Neill plays the
Antonio Stradivarius, 1667, "Piet"



ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)

The Four Seasons

The Four Seasons were first published in Amsterdam in 1725. For each season, which is presented as a single concerto, Vivaldi wrote a sonnet (the translations from Italian appear below). These concertos were written for Count Graf Wenzel von Morzin of Bohemia, and are part of a larger collection of twelve concertos entitled *Il cimento dell'armonia e del' inventione* ("The Contest of Harmony and Invention").

Spring

*Spring has arrived, and joyously the birds
now welcome her return with festive song,
and streamlets, by soft airs caressed, are heard
to murmur sweetly as they course along.
Casting their inky mantle over heaven,
thunderstorms, her chosen heralds, roar;
when they have died away to silence, then
the birds take up their charming songs once more.
And now, upon the flower-strewn grass subsiding,
with leafy branches rustling overhead,
the goatherd sleeps, his faithful dog beside him.
By festive sound of rustic bagpipes led,
nymphs and shepherds dance beneath the shining
canopy of spring with sprightly tread.*

Summer

*Beneath the blazing sun's relentless heat
men and flocks are sweltering, pines are seared;
the cuckoo's voice is raised, and soon the sweet
songs of the turtle dove and finch are heard.
Soft breezes stir the air, but the contentious
north wind sweeps them suddenly aside;
the weeping shepherd trembles at the menace
of violent storm and what it may betide.
His limbs are now from restful ease unbound
by fear of lightning's flash and thunder's roar
and flies and bluebottles that buzz around.
Alas, right well has he read Nature's lore:
that heavens growl and flash and hail-stones pound
the ripened corn that proudly stood before.*

Autumn

*With song and dance the peasant celebrates
the harvest safely gathered in his barns;
Bacchus' flowing bowl intoxicates
and many a reveller sinks in Morpheus' arms.
The singing and the dancing die away
as cooling breezes fan the balmy air;
the summons of the season all obey:
to yield to sweet repose without a care.
At dawn the hunters, ready for the chase,
emerge with horns and guns and dogs and cries;
the prey breaks cover, they now pursue apace.
The din of guns and dogs now terrifies
the wounded brute, who for a little space
tries wearily to flee but, harried, dies.*

Winter

*To shiver frozen mid the frosty snow
in unrelenting winds that bite and sting,
to stamp one's icy feet, run to and fro,
one's teeth for bitter chill a-chattering;
To muse contendedly beside the hearth
while those outside are drenched by pouring rain;
with cautious step to tread the icy path
and try to keep one's feet with might and main;
To turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground
and, rising, hasten on across the ice
until it cracks and splinters all around;
To hear the winds burst with ferocious might
their prison gates and clash with martial sound—
this is the winter, such are its delights.*





KURT SASSMANNSHAUS

Kurt Sassmannshaus, violinist and conductor, is considered one of today's preeminent violin pedagogues. He received his Master's degree from the Juilliard School, where he was a scholarship student of Dorothy DeLay. He also studied with Miss DeLay as a scholarship student at the Aspen Music Festival and School, and won first prize in the International Chamber Music Competition in Colmar, France. Mr. Sassmannshaus is currently Chairman of the String Department at the University of Cincinnati College — Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Sassmannshaus' multifaceted career as a violinist, pedagogue and conductor has taken him to many parts of the world to perform and hold master classes. He has conducted the Starling Chamber Orchestra in major European concert halls, in Korea and China, and at New York's Lincoln Center.

Mr. Sassmannshaus directs the renowned Starling Preparatory String Project and the Starling Chamber Orchestra, which are based at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. In 1987, he founded the Starling program as an integrated, advanced pre-collegiate program for highly talented young string players. London's *Strad* Magazine called the program "a virtual laboratory of excellence." Germany's *Neue Musikzeitung* called the program, "the first address for the best."

Mr. Sassmannshaus works in close association with Dorothy DeLay both in Cincinnati and at the Aspen Music Festival and School.



The Starling Chamber Orchestra is grateful to the Aspen Music Festival for the opportunity to record in Harris Hall, and to Machold Rare Violins Ltd./USA for making Stradivarius and Guarneri violins available for this recording.

CD Cover and Booklet Design: Parris Design, Newport, KY



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Harris Hall, Aspen Music Festival, June 28, 2000: The four soloists and Kurt Sassmannshaus before their performance of *The Four Seasons*. The soloists are holding their rare violins (courtesy of Machold Rare Violins Ltd./USA).

STARLING CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

(ages as of November 1, 1999)

VIOLIN

Janet Ahn	15	Cincinnati, OH
Peter Ahn	15	Maineville, OH
Breana Bauman	17	Cincinnati, OH
Mary Beaton	15	Maineville, OH
Hilary Bussell	15	Cincinnati, OH
Eun-Mee Jeong	17	Lookout Mountain, TN
Gareth Johnson	14	St. Louis, MO
Sarah Michael	13	Cincinnati, OH
Ryan Miller	17	Middletown, OH
Richard Pan	16	Lexington, KY
Jessica Park	16	Villa Hills, KY
Ye-Young Yi	13	Cincinnati, OH

VIOLA

Christian Kaufman	15	Louisville, KY
Kelly Kaufman	18	Louisville, KY
Melissa Liu	15	Cincinnati, OH

CELLO

Janice Ahn	12	Cincinnati, OH
Casey Kaufman	13	Louisville, KY
Kathy O'Neill	16	Cincinnati, OH

DOUBLE BASS

Kristin Bruya	24	Cincinnati, OH
Katherine Nettleman	24	Cincinnati, OH

HARPSICHORD

Michele Grossman		Cincinnati, OH
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MARK & CATHY LYONS

STARLING CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Starling Chamber Orchestra is comprised of twenty-five superbly talented young musicians, ages eleven through eighteen. These outstanding young artists have been selected from throughout the United States and abroad to participate in the Starling Preparatory String Project, the internationally renowned training program based at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Founded by Kurt Sassmannshaus in 1987, the Starling Chamber Orchestra offers unprecedented opportunities for young artists to perform as soloists, tour nationally and internationally, and make recordings.

In addition to its subscription series and other local performances in Cincinnati, the Starling Chamber Orchestra maintains a busy international touring and recording schedule. In March 2000, the Starling Chamber Orchestra embarked on a three-week, 12-concert tour of the People's Republic of China, performing in 11 cities including Nanjing and Shanghai. The orchestra has been invited for a tour of China's northern cities, including Beijing, in fall 2001. In June 2000, the orchestra performed at the Aspen Music Festival, its fifth engagement there in seven years. Since 1992, the orchestra has toured Europe three times and performed four concerts in Korea in 1997.

In addition to this recording of *The Four Seasons*, the Starling Chamber Orchestra has recorded five compact discs including *Aspen Serenade* and *Simply Brilliant!*, which have been praised by *American Record Guide*. Recently the orchestra was heard on National Public Radio and Robert Sherman's "Young Artists Showcase" program in New York. In March 2000, the Starling Chamber Orchestra's first educational video, *Classical Quest*, was distributed free to an initial audience of some 600 public school districts in Ohio. The video has been awarded prizes from WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival and The Telly Awards 2000, and was broadcast on PBS.



The Four Seasons

The Starling Chamber Orchestra

Kurt Sassmannshaus, Director

Jessica Park, Tania Davison, Eun-Mee Jeong, Timothy O'Neill, violinists



Recorded in the Joan & Irving Harris Concert Hall,
Aspen Music Festival and School, Aspen, Colorado, June 2000.

Producer: Friederike Rust

Recording Engineer: Thomas Haines

Digital Editing: Thomas Haines

Mastering: Dave Davis, QCA, Inc.



Special thanks to Machold Rare Violins, Ltd./USA
for providing Stradivarius and Guarneri violins.



Spring, Opus 8, No. 1

Track 1: Allegro..... 3:26
Track 2: Largo..... 2:42
Track 3: Allegro..... 4:10

Summer, Opus 8, No. 2

Track 4: Allegro non molto.... 5:24
Track 5: Adagio..... 2:00
Track 6: Presto..... 3:14

Autumn, Opus 8, No. 3

Track 7: Allegro..... 5:10
Track 8: Adagio..... 3:09
Track 9: Allegro..... 3:24

Winter, Opus 8, No. 4

Track 10: Allegro non molto ... 3:45
Track 11: Largo..... 2:18
Track 12: Allegro..... 3:17

Total: 42:03

Starling Chamber Orchestra

University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music

Preparatory Department

Cincinnati, OH 45221-0003

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