



SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

GyRe & Gimble

VIVALDI'S
THE FOUR
SEASONS
A Reimagining



THE SHOW

Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* comes to thrilling, theatrical life in this unique and exhilarating show combining Gyre & Gimble's master puppeteers with a sextet of London's finest Baroque musicians. The performance conjures a poetic and emotional narrative in response to Max Richter's acclaimed recomposition of Vivaldi's pictorial masterpiece, which has been newly arranged by Bill Barclay for this production.

Inspired by the mastery of Japanese Bunraku puppet theatre, this unprecedented collaboration explores not only the form and techniques of puppetry, but the acoustic and candlelit ambience of every space in which it plays.

Before *The Four Seasons* begins, the musicians perform an enchanting mix of Vivaldi concerti for strings to transport audiences into the musical world of the performance. What then follows is a groundbreaking new work that explores the themes of courtship, conflict, love, death, struggle and renewal. The intricately carved, but curiously ambiguous puppets allow the audience to imbue their own thoughts and emotions into the characters as they navigate the landscape of Vivaldi's pictorial masterpiece.

Without a language tying to to a specific culture, the piece can translate to audiences all over the world, and it's highly visual staging makes it accessible to audiences of varying ages. The dynamic mix of virtuosic mediums means the piece can play festivals of puppetry, music, period music, theatre, opera and dance theatre.

The Four Seasons: A Reimagining runs at approximately 90 minutes (without an interval) including the prelude, with an age recommendation of 8 years and over.

An archive recording of the original production can be viewed [HERE](#)



THE CREATIVES

Max Richter, *Composer*

Hailed as the most influential composer of his generation, electro-acoustic polymath Max Richter defies definition: composer he may be, but he is also pianist, producer, remixer, and collaborator, and beyond argument one of the most prolific of contemporary musical artists. Richter's sonic world blends a formal classical training with modern technology. His unique and distinctive brand of heartbroken melodicism bridges the minimalist greats with pioneering electronics and the contemporary digital music production multiverse.

Finn Caldwell & Toby Olié, *Directors & Puppet Designers*

In 2014 Finn and Toby founded Gyre & Gimble, a theatre company that places puppetry at the heart of its storytelling. Their work is inspired by the interplay of movement and design, daringly fusing traditional and innovative techniques. They create compelling characters that lead audiences through fantastical, improbable and even impossible stories. Gyre & Gimble's work has been hailed by critics as 'extraordinary' and 'visually stunning' with 'soaring inventiveness'.

Having met whilst performing in the original production of *War Horse*, they were later made associate puppetry directors of the show. Since then they co-directed *The Elephantom* (National Theatre) which after a sell out initial run transferred to the West End, and created puppetry for *Running Wild* (Chichester Festival Theatre, Regent's Park & UK tour), *The Lorax* (Old Vic, Toronto & North American tour) and *The Grinning Man* (Bristol Old Vic & West End).

Paul Wills, *Set & Costume Designer*

Paul is a world-renowned theatre designer, whose works spans plays, musicals, opera and dance. He has designed productions for some of the UK's most prestigious theatres, including: Royal Shakespeare Company, Chichester Festival Theatre, Donmar Warehouse, Young Vic, Royal Court and Manchester Royal Exchange. As well as designing international works for Cape Town's Fugard Theatre, New York's Theatre for a New Audience, Brooklyn Academy of Music and the National Theatre of Palestine.

Bill Barclay, *Music Arranger & Supervisor*

Bill is Director of Music at Shakespeare's Globe, where he has produced music for over 100 productions and 150 concerts since 2011. He conducted City of London Sinfonia on their new recording *King of Ghosts* and directed his original adaptation of *Peer Gynt* for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Bill has written and/or directed several programmes for actors and symphony orchestra, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl and the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican.

PRESS REVIEWS

★★★★★

The Arts Desk, The Upcoming, Theatre Bubble, BroadwayWorldUK

★★★★★

The Times, The Guardian, The Stage, Financial Times, WhatsOnStage, Theatre Cat

“Transfixing”

Financial Times

“Ingenious...music and action come together immaculately”

The Guardian

“The most magical and moving puppeteering you will get to see...a remarkable evening”

The Times

“There aren't enough words to praise the work of art that the team of The Four Seasons performed”

The Upcoming

“Spellbinding in its simplicity and for the breadth of its emotional canvas...a creatively nimble, deeply moving experience”

The Stage

“An emotional rollercoaster, filled with touching and charming moments...a night you will never forget”

BroadwayWorldUK

“This is puppetry at its finest...a quietly brilliant evening”

Theatre Bubble

“Feels like something entirely new, a genre unto itself, and a really exciting one at that”

WhatsOnStage

“This has dramatically transformed for me what is possible with the medium”

Exeunt Magazine

“A beautiful and accessible performance, somewhere between mime, dance and theatrical epic”

Theatre Cat

“This vastly skilled team imbue every tiny, sensitive movement with meaning and feeling”

The Independent

AUDIENCE TESTIMONIALS

“Just the best, most beautiful, most exquisite piece I have ever seen.. So much of the world right there on stage. Incredible”

Claire van Kampen, Director & Composer

“Brilliant musicians and puppeteers. The most beautiful thing I have EVER seen in the theatre -this must be seen again!”

Simon Slater, Composer

“Truly enchanting, a magical piece of storytelling”

Elizabeth Benbow, Twitter

“I actually teared up a bit when the puppet came alive to the opening notes. Magical!”

Headphone Commute, Twitter

“A piece of art in motion”

Lizzie Cavanagh, Facebook

“The tenderness of the puppeteers' storytelling, delicate music, and imaginatively simple production design bathed in golden light, was like watching a beautiful glowing dream”

Emily Long, Twitter

“Fantastic music & magical, beautiful puppetry. Possibly my most enjoyable theatrical experience”

Russell Hamilton, Twitter

“An absolutely exquisite production with breath-taking live music and effortless puppetry”

Emma Longthorne, Facebook

“There's something miraculous about Four Seasons at The Globe, rare and beautiful”

Madeleine Hyland, Twitter

“Wow, such an incredible piece of art. Great classical music and amazing puppetry”

Jorgen Veninga, Twitter

“Unlike anything you'll ever have experienced! Beautiful and moving”

Catherine Adam, Facebook

“This show moved me on another level. Wow!”

Joy Cruickshank, Twitter

PRODUCTION IMAGES







TOURING PERSONNEL

- Puppeteers x 5
- Musicians x 6
- Swing Puppeteer/Resident Director
- Company Stage Manager
- Deputy Stage Manager
- Assistant Stage Manager
- Sound Engineer