

Explanation

Themes grafted on folk music play an important role in this concerto, in the first movement primarily Hungarian, in the second movement Russian. The themes themselves and their development stem however from own invention. The first movement is written in sonata form: one can recognise here the four seasons: summer (1st theme), autumn (2nd theme), winter (development) and spring (recapitulation: restart of the yearly cycle). The second movement starts with a slow, meditative introduction (Adagio), followed by the exposition of three “thèmes russes” (Andante) and a Rondo (Vivace) based on these themes. In this movement, and in line with Russian tradition, bell motives frequently occur: one can see these motives as musical metaphores for new enlightening concepts suddenly breaking through.