

TORONTO STAR

"The first performance of the work – Violin Concerto No. 2, "The American Four Seasons" – was so spectacularly played by the new piece's muse, American violinist Robert McDuffie, at Roy Thomson Hall Wednesday night, that the event turned into one of the most exciting musical evenings of the year."

- World Premiere Performance, Toronto, December 9, 2009

THE GLOBE AND MAIL | ARTS

"By Glass's own account, this piece came into the world largely because McDuffie kept prodding him to write it. The violinist took possession of his prize with gusto, performing with great commitment and sensitivity, and really rocking out in the final pages."

- World Premiere Performance, Toronto, December 9, 2009

Telegraph

"Philip Glass's new violin concerto, The American Four Seasons...was dignified and contained, even when the soloist launched into passionate flights of virtuosity, which was quite often...Glass has a magical way of giving the merest twist to banality and ordinariness, which makes it interesting – the mark of classic art down the ages. As for the solo performance by Robert McDuffie, it was beyond praise, as cool, poised and heroically strong as a piece of Greek statuary."

- European Premiere Performance, London, April 17, 2010

theguardian

"Baroque in scale, and slyly using a synthesizer as continuo, it interweaves unaccompanied solos with formal movements of great melodic beauty."

- European Premiere Performance, London, April 17, 2010

THE DENVER POST

"This is the achievement of a mature composer [Philip Glass], who has judiciously drawn on his standard musical vocabulary, and, at the same time, transcended it, creating a work of broader compositional and emotional complexity... At the hub of the concerto was violinist Robert McDuffie... He performed with extraordinary ease and elan and inspired fervid..."

- American Premiere Performance, Aspen, July 22, 2010