Previously...

...music was performed like clockwork, following a preordained tempo. Beats per minute were meted out by the steady click of a metronome. Vivaldi’s Four Seasons sounded much the same whether staged in Vienna or Beijing, and whether played in April or September.

In the future...

...rivers could guide musicians’ timing, with beats per minute measured in cubic feet per second. Symphonies and concertos would be composed to accommodate site specificity, and each production would be performed in collaboration with the season. The universality of music would derive from its adaptability to each setting at every moment.

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