

And that's why I purchased and how I find myself listening to Vivaldi cello concertos.

As I sit here, it seems natural that I would be working on notes, drinking coffee, and listening to Vivaldi cello concertos. Yet, literally nothing in my past or my upbringing would suggest this and the specific confluence of events probable. This is relatively new. I don't know how I first heard of the Teaching Company, but I did and for years have listened to Robert Greenberg's Teaching Company lectures, and used him to explore different genres and composers of music, from symphony to concerto to opera. I even spent a year and a half studying opera because he said it was the greatest integration of vocals and melody in existence. While I disagree with that, I still respect him enough to usually listen to at least one of his courses every year. Right now, it's one on concertos.

I have a friend who plays the cello. One day out of the blue, she sent me a links to cello pieces that ranged from cathedral like depth to the purely sensual. Before this, I had never appreciated the range and power of the cello, and had (like many people) just focused on the piano or the violin.

Although there are few symphonies and even fewer operas I enjoy, the concerto has captured my attention. In an attempt to explore more of these, I decided to explore cello concertos. Not many of the well known composers I have studied seem to have done cello concertos, but Vivaldi had. Thus, that's how I find myself listening to a dozen or so of his cello concerto.

There is a phenomenon known as the end of history illusion, where people recognize that they have changed in the past but tend to think they won't change as much in the future. When we tell the story of our pasts, they often have straight line almost inevitable character that they didn't have when they were being lived. While the Greek philosopher Heraclitus nearly deified change, and Siddhartha emphasized its omnipresence, if my past is a guide, the truth is that some things change and some remain the same and I am unlikely to be able to guess which is which. In a decade I will be as similar and different as the current me is to me a decade ago. What will be similar and what will be different? Who will I be? Who will I know? How will I live?

I wish I believed in fortune tellers.

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