

mm — Hallelujah Anyhow!

A rainy Sunday afternoon and gloomy news and thoughts...
and tickets for the annual Candlelight and Carols concert...
but I'm not quite ready for much Gloria and Hallelujah.

I'm borderline illiterate when it comes to music history...
can't tell one composer from another...
and also hearing-aid dependent!

I Googled up Vivaldi...Priest and violin master for an orphanage...
for girls born to mistresses of wealthy Venice noblemen...
made famous for excellent musical concerts...
"Gloria" first written for them.

Charles Jennen wrote lyrics for Handel...
a "devout Episcopalian...believed in Scriptural authority..."
so be prepared for 17th century theology I thought.

I like front seats in case there are words to hear...
no closed captions or translations from Latin in these concerts...
lights too dim to read programs anyway.

I know the biblical texts and current scholarship...
and the history of the circumstances surrounding the words...
and how there are many ways of "hearing" ancient words.

King James texts and times have their own spin...
along with the 1662 Episcopalian Book of Common Prayer ...
the music overpowers my mind's reservations.

Most people don't care or worry one way or another...
people of all faiths and no faiths come together
as music reaches inside with its own voice.

At the end all rose singing the transcendent Hallelujah Chorus...
even I could hear and feel the music

Hallelujah Anyhow!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Art Morgan, 3rd Sunday of Advent 2018