

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

(58th SEASON)

Conductor: Dr. HAROLD MAY

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ASSEMBLY HALL,  
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Sunday, 19th November, 1961

at 3 p.m.

# “ELIJAH”

(MENDELSSOHN)

IRIS KELLS

(by permission of the Governors of Sadlers Wells)

SYBIL MICHELOW

JOHN STODDART

(by permission of the Governors of Sadlers Wells)

and HERVEY ALAN as ‘Elijah’

ANTHONY ROBERTS (Treble)

FULL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(Leader: Ronald Good)

Guest Conductor:

CHARLES GROVES, O.B.E.

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PROGRAMME 6d.

ELIJAH was first performed in Birmingham in 1846 under the direction of the composer. The oratorio was set to English words, as nearly as possible to the Biblical Text as the music would allow, and the first performance was an outstanding success, with the famous Jenny Lind as Soprano soloist (for her Mendelssohn wrote the outstandingly beautiful aria 'Hear ye, Israel' which opens the second part of the oratorio). Ever since, the work has held the affections of the British public, with its dramatic interpretation of the Bible story, the Chorus alternately singing the parts of the Israelites, and the Priests of Baal, interspersed with some gems of more quiet writing, such as 'He, watching over Israel,' 'He that shall endure to the end' and the famous Contralto air 'O rest in the Lord'. An outstanding moment is the Quartet and Chorus, 'Holy, Holy, is God the Lord' with the Soprano soloist soaring above the Chorus, which seems to be the voices on earth answering with great joy the adoration of the Angels in Heaven.

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It is a great pleasure to welcome our Guest Conductor, **Mr. Charles Groves** to Tunbridge Wells for the first time; Mr. Groves was for 10 years principal conductor and musical director of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, until his retirement from that post a few months ago in order to take up the appointment of Musical Director to the Welsh National Opera Company. He recently conducted two concerts in the Royal Festival Hall at which the soloist was the great Russian 'Cellist, Rostropovitch, and which concerts were enthusiastically acclaimed by the national press. Dr. HAROLD MAY remains the Society's chief conductor, and will be on the rostrum for the next two Concerts, on December 17th, 1961 and March 25th, 1962.

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**Hervey Alan's** great experience in the title role of Elijah and memories of his last appearance in the work at St. John's Church three years ago have compelled his re-engagement to day. He is too well known to need introduction, and we look forward to hearing this exacting role sung again by him.

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We are obliged to the Governors of Sadlers Wells for allowing Miss IRIS KELLS and Mr. JOHN STODDART to appear with us, and also extend to Miss SYBIL MICHELOW, from South Africa, a warm welcome.

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The Society is indebted to many members of the ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA for kindly playing in this concert; their assistance is always appreciated.

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*The National Federation of Music Societies, to which this Society is affiliated, supports this Concert with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.*

## PART I

No.		
	Introduction (Elijah) ...	'As God the Lord of Israel liveth'
	Overture ... ..	
1	Chorus ... ..	'Help, Lord!'
2	Duet and Chorus (Sop- rano and Contralto) ...	'Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer'
3	Recit. (Obadiah) ...	'Ye people, rend your hearts'
4	Air (Obadiah) ... ..	'If with all your hearts'
5	Chorus ... ..	'Yet doth the Lord see it not'
6	Recit. (Contralto) ...	'Elijah, get thee hence'
7	Chorus ... ..	'For He shall give His angels charge over thee'
7a	Recit. (Contralto) ...	'Now Cherith's brook is dried up'
8	Recit., Air and Duet (Elijah and Widow)	'Help me, man of God!'
9	Chorus ... ..	'Blessed are the men who fear Him'
10	Recit. & Chorus (Elijah)	'As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth'
11	Double Chorus ...	'Baal, we cry to thee'
12	Recit. (Elijah) ...	'Call him louder'
	Chorus ... ..	'Hear our cry, O Baal'
13	Recit. (Elijah) ...	'Call him louder'
	Chorus ... ..	'Baal, hear and answer'
14	Recit. and Air (Elijah)	'Lord God of Abraham'
15	Chorus ... ..	'Cast thy burden upon the Lord'
16	Recit. (Elijah) ...	'O Thou, who makest Thine angels spirits'
	Chorus ... ..	'The fire descends from heaven'
17	Air (Elijah) ... ..	'Is not His word like a fire?'
18	Air (Contralto) ...	'Woe unto them who forsake Him!'
19	Recit. (Obadiah) ...	'O man of God, help thy people'
	Recit. and Chorus (Elijah and Youth)	'O Lord Thou hast overthrown Thine enemies'
20	Chorus ... ..	'Thanks be to God'

SHORT INTERVAL

## PART II

No.

- 21 Air (Soprano) ... .. 'Hear ye, Israel'
- 22 Chorus ... .. 'Be not afraid'
- 23 Recit. & Chorus (Elijah) 'The Lord hath exalted thee'
- 24 Chorus ... .. 'Woe to him!'
- 25 Recit. (Obadiah) ... .. 'Man of God'
- 26 Air (Elijah) ... .. 'It is enough'
- 27 Recit. (Tenor) ... .. 'See, now he sleepeth'
- 28 Chorus (The Angels) ... .. 'Lift thine eyes'
- 29 Chorus ... .. 'He, watching over Israel'
- 30 Recit. (The Angel) ... .. 'Arise, Elijah'
- 31 Air (The Angel) ... .. 'O rest in the Lord'
- 32 Chorus ... .. 'He that shall endure to the end'
- 33 Recit. (Elijah) ... .. 'Night falleth round me'
- 34 Chorus ... .. 'Behold! God the Lord passed by!'
- 35 Recit. (Contralto),  
 Quartet and Chorus 'Holy, Holy, Holy'
- 36 Chorus ... .. 'Go, return upon thy way'
- Recit. (Elijah) ... .. 'I go on my way in the strength of the Lord'
- 38 Chorus ... .. 'Then did Elijah'
- 39 Air (Tenor) ... .. 'Then shall the righteous shine forth'
- 41a Chorus ... .. 'O come everyone that thirsteth'
- 42 Chorus ... .. 'And then shall your light break forth'

# Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra

Leader: LIONEL BENTLEY

Conductor: JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH

ASSEMBLY HALL - SUNDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, 1961, 3 p.m.

## Programme

Overture, Cinderella	...	...	...	...	Rossini
Symphony No. 8 in F	...	...	...	...	Beethoven
Serenade for Tenor, Horn and String Orchestra					Benjamin Britten
Polonaise, Arietta and Passacaglia	...	...	...	...	Handel-Harty

**PETER PEARS**

*Solo Horn:* BARRY TUCKWELL

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# Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

Conductor: Dr. HAROLD MAY

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SUNDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 1961

Assembly Hall - 3 p.m.

## CAROLS for Choir and Audience

with SAM PAKENHAM-WALSH

WALTER NEAL and MARJORIE VINALL (2 pianofortes)

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SUNDAY, 25th MARCH, 1962

Assembly Hall - 3 p.m.

## “THE CREATION” (Haydn)

IRIS BOURNE

GERALD ENGLISH

OWEN BRANNIGAN

FULL ORCHESTRA (Leader: RONALD GOOD)

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Seats for all concerts numbered and reserved—see separate advertisements for details

Reductions for parties at all concerts      Special terms for Schools

All further information can be obtained from Hon. Secretary, Mr. Cyril Wood

# Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

## (58th Season)

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The Society is greatly indebted to its Vice-Presidents for their support, which helps to bridge the serious gap between income and expenditure which nearly always arises in giving choral concerts. It is hoped that all those interested in the performance of choral music will become Vice-Presidents by contributing at least one guinea a year.

Singing membership of the Society is open to all who sing. **New members are welcomed.** There is an audition (held in private) for all members. Those who would like to join may come to any rehearsal or write to the Hon. Secretary: Mr. CYRIL WOOD, c/o. Ibbett, Mosely, Card & Co., 7, London Road, Tunbridge Wells. (Tel. 446/7).

**Rehearsals:** Christ Church Hall, High Street on Mondays, at 7 p.m. from September to May.

**Annual Subscription:** £1 10s. (reduction for those under 21).