

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

(67 SEASON)

Chorus Master: DEREK WATMOUGH

ASSEMBLY HALL
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Sunday, 15th November, 1970

at 3 p.m.

ELIJAH

(MENDELSSOHN)

RAE WOODLAND PENELOPE LISTER

KENNETH WOOLLAM

and ANTHONY WILLIAMS as Elijah

SENIOR CHOIR of the TUNBRIDGE WELLS
COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FULL ORCHESTRA

(Leader: RICHARD ENGLAND)

Conductor :

TREVOR HARVEY

The National Federation of Music Societies, to which this Society is affiliated, gives support towards the cost of these concerts with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain. Support is also given by the Corporation of Royal Tunbridge Wells

PROGRAMME 1/-

Programme Notes

RAE WOODLAND has appeared with us on two previous occasions; in Aida, and the Beethoven Symphony No. 9 with the Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra last year. She is well known in the operatic field and will have a warm welcome in Tunbridge Wells again where her singing has been very much appreciated.

PENELOPE LISTER is a young contralto we have not had the pleasure of hearing before, but she has received very favourable press notices from previous performances of this and other works.

KENNETH WOOLLAM last appeared here in Messiah four years ago, and we had hoped to engage him for the part of the Evangelist in St. John Passion last season, but he was unable to accept owing to an engagement in the North on the previous day.

ANTHONY WILLIAMS who is singing the role of Elijah, will surely be remembered from his moving portrayal of the King of Egypt and the High Priest in last season's performance of Aida. He has also sung with us in Haydn's Creation. His voice is a true bass although many other interpreters of this role are baritones.

C.W.

“ELIJAH” tells in dramatic form, the Old Testament story of the prophet who was prepared to stand alone for his faith against the heathen prophets of Baal and the people of Israel, who almost to a man, followed them.

The work commences with Elijah announcing that there will be no dew or rain but according to His word. This is followed by the Overture, and then the chorus of people who are beginning to starve because of the lack of rain and no crops “Help Lord, wilt thou quite destroy us.” The story continues and the people cry again “Yet doth the Lord see it not.”

An angel tells Elijah to turn eastward to Cherith's brook, so that he can drink its waters, and the Lord will send ravens to feed him there. The Angels sing telling Elijah that they will take charge over him. He is asked to go to the house of a widow where she is mourning the death of her son; he is able to raise him.

Elijah challenges the Prophets of Baal to have an offering set alight, but they fail whilst the people are calling frantically upon Baal. As a result of Elijah's prayers flames consume the offering and he tells the people to forsake the prophets of Baal and let them be slain.

Elijah calls for a youth to look for a sign of rain appearing, but he answers he cannot see anything. The people ask again for help and Elijah asks the youth to look again — he still sees nothing. Then suddenly he sees a little cloud arising from the waters — at this the People are excited and praise and give thanks to God for sending rain to lave the thirsty land.

In the second half Elijah is told not to be afraid because help is near, but Jezebel, Ahab's wife, frightens him, and says that he will perish. Elijah has had enough now and is ready to die, so he goes up into the mountain and sleeps beneath a Juniper Tree, but he is still protected by the Angels; they appear to him again, and tell him to arise and prepare for a long journey, but he still wishes to die.

The Angel tells him to be peaceful now and "Rest in the Lord." Elijah sees the night coming but feels the Lord is not far away, and suddenly there is a mighty wind breaking the mountains and rocks to pieces and disturbing the sea and earth — then there is a still small voice, and the Angels appear again singing "Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh thy help."

Elijah is told to "Go on his way." He is taken up to Heaven with fiery horses and a fiery chariot by a whirl wind, and the work ends with a great chorus and final Amen.

D.M.

PART I

No.		
	Elijah ...	'As God the Lord of Israel liveth'
	Overture	
1	Chorus ...	'Help, Lord!'
2	Duet and Chorus	'Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer'
3	Obadiah	'Ye people, rend your hearts'
4	Obadiah	'If with all your hearts'
5	Chorus ...	'Yet doth the Lord see it not'
6	Contralto	'Elijah, get thee hence'
7	Semi-Chorus	'For He shall give His angels charge over thee'
7a	Contralto	'Now Cherith's brook is dried up'
8	Duet	
	Elijah & Widow	'Help me, man of God!'
9	Chorus ...	'Blessed are the men who fear Him'
10	Chorus & Elijah	'As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth'
11	Double Chorus	'Baal, we cry to thee'

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| 12 | Elijah ... | 'Call him louder' |
| | Chorus ... | 'Hear our cry, O Baal' |
| 13 | Elijah ... | 'Call him louder' |
| | Chorus ... | 'Baal, hear and answer' |
| 14 | Elijah ... | 'Lord God of Abraham' |
| 15 | Quartet | 'Cast thy burden upon the Lord' |
| 16 | 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 | Contralto | 'Woe unto them who forsake Him!' |
| 19 | Obadiah | 'O man of God, help thy people' |
| | Elijah ... | |
| | Chorus & Youth | 'O Lord Thou hast overthrown Thine enemies' |
| 20 | Chorus ... | 'Thanks be to God' |

SHORT INTERVAL

PART II

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| No. | | |
| 21 | Soprano | 'Hear ye, Israel' |
| 22 | Chorus ... | 'Be not afraid' |
| 23 | Elijah ... | 'The Lord hath exalted thee' |
| 24 | Chorus ... | 'Woe to him!' |
| 25 | Obadiah | 'Man of God' |
| 26 | Elijah ... | 'It is enough' |
| 27 | Tenor ... | 'See, now he sleepeth' |
| 28 | Girls' Choir | 'Lift thine eyes' |
| 29 | Chorus ... | 'He, watching over Israel' |
| 30 | Contralto | { 'Arise, Elijah' |
| 31 | „ | { 'O rest in the Lord' |
| 32 | Chorus ... | 'He that shall endure to the end' |
| 33 | Elijah ... | 'Night falleth round me' |
| 34 | Chorus ... | 'Behold! God the Lord passed by' |
| 35 | Contralto | |
| | Girls' Choir &
Chorus | 'Holy, Holy, Holy' |
| 36 | Chorus ... | 'Go, return upon thy way' |
| 37 | Elijah ... | 'I go on my way in the strength of the Lord' |
| | Chorus ... | 'For the mountain shall depart' |
| 38 | Chorus ... | 'Then did Elijah' |
| 39 | Tenor ... | 'Then shall the righteous shine forth' |
| 41a | Quartet | 'O come, everyone that thirsteth' |
| 42 | Chorus ... | 'And then shall your light break forth' |

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

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The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society has about 125 members, and at the present time there are no vacancies for sopranos or altos, although a waiting list has been formed. Tenors and basses are still very welcome and interested singers should please apply to:—

The Secretary, Mr. Cyril Wood, 45 High Street, Tunbridge Wells. (Telephone: 23264) for further details.

Subscription is £2 2s. 0d. per annum and rehearsals are held at Christ Church Hall, High Street, Tunbridge Wells on Mondays from 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Entrance is by private audition.

The Society is greatly indebted to its Patrons and 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 two guineas a year.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

Assembly Hall **SUNDAY, 6th DECEMBER, at 3 p.m.**

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Leader: **BARRY COLLINS**

Overture, Half holiday ...	...	...	<i>John Gardner</i>
Piano Concerto No. 2 in C, Minor	...	...	<i>Rachmaninov</i>
Symphony No. 1 in C. minor	...	...	... <i>Brahms</i>
Cantilena ...	...	...	<i>Roy Douglas</i>

Piano: **JOHN LILL**

Conductor: **JOHN LANCHBERY**

Tickets: Reserved 10/6, 8/6, 6/6 from the Box Office (phone 30613)
Unreserved 5/- at the Door only

SUNDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 1970 — ASSEMBLY HALL
3 p.m.

C A R O L S

FOR CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

PAT WILLANS *Carols with Guitar*

MARJORIE VINALL — DEREK WATMOUGH *Two Pianos*

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Conductor TREVOR HARVEY

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45 High Street, Tunbridge Wells