

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

*Mendelssohn's*

# Elijah

Illustration: Stacy Lee

The Assembly Hall Theatre  
Tunbridge Wells TN1 2LU  
Saturday Nov 12th 2011, 7.00pm

**Programme £2.00**

*Royal Tunbridge Wells*  
**CHORAL**  
**SOCIETY**

[www.rtwcs.org.uk](http://www.rtwcs.org.uk)

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society  
and girls from the choir of  
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School

Jonathan Gunthorpe – baritone (Elijah)  
Michael Bracegirdle – tenor  
Juliette Pochin – mezzo soprano  
Sally Harrison – soprano

RTWCS Orchestra (leader Jane Gomm)  
Conducted by Malcolm Riley

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[www.rtwcs.org.uk](http://www.rtwcs.org.uk)

# Programme

## *Elijah, Op. 70*

### *Part 1*

INTERVAL – 20 MINUTES

### *Part 2*

## Programme notes

In the first half of the 19th century there was a great upsurge of choral activity in Western Europe. Concert halls were built, choral societies were established and composers were quick to exploit the market thus provided. It was an age when big was beautiful – choirs numbering 200 or more voices became common – so one of the most popular forms of music for public performance was the oratorio.

Felix Mendelssohn, who had already composed a great deal of choral music, wrote his first oratorio, *St. Paul*, in 1836. This was a great success, and he was thus encouraged to seek a subject for an even greater and more dramatic choral work. By a happy chance he was sent a libretto based on the story of the prophet Elijah by a clergyman from Devon, the Rev. James Barry, Vicar of Bratton Clovelly. Mendelssohn recognized the story's potential, but it was not until 1845 that he was stimulated into setting to work in earnest on the new oratorio by being invited to write a new work for the 1846 Birmingham Musical Festival. Consequently the first performance of *Elijah* took place in Birmingham Town Hall on 26 August 1846, with Mendelssohn conducting.



*Felix Mendelssohn*  
(1809 – 1847)

*Elijah* was an immediate and tremendous success. Its great dramatic qualities, allied to its magnificent musical craftsmanship, appealed strongly to audiences and performers, and it has remained one of the most popular oratorios to the present time.

PART ONE: The oratorio commences in an unusual but highly dramatic manner as the principal soloist, Elijah (baritone), announces in an introductory recitative his warning to the Israelites that, because of their infidelity to God, they will not have any rain. This powerful beginning has within it a musical reference to the very end of the work, for Mendelssohn uses a series of diminished fifth intervals at the words, "there shall not be dew or rain" that we will hear again in the choral basses' final "Amen"s at the end of the last movement. That, however, is all in the future as Mendelssohn now proceeds with the expected overture, a dark, relentless fugato in D minor. At its climactic end, the chorus of Israelites enters dramatically with the heartfelt plea: "Help, Lord! Wilt thou quite destroy us?"

There follows a series of highly charged movements in which the Israelites call upon the Lord for help, and bewail the drought which is causing such great distress. Obadiah (tenor) entreats them to be faithful to God in the aria "If with all

your hearts". But in the ensuing chorus they express their fear of God the avenger, even though they know that "His mercies on thousands fall".

Elijah flees into the desert at the bidding of an angel (alto), where he drinks from Cherith's brooks and ravens bring him food. A beautiful eight-part chorus describes the ministering and protective angels. Next Elijah intercedes with God on behalf of the dying son of a widow (soprano). The boy recovers, and Elijah and the widow join in duet to praise God. Their cry is taken up by the chorus, who sings of God's goodness in "Blessed are the men that fear him".

Elijah then returns to Israel and confronts the ungodly King Ahab, but Ahab (tenor) leads the people against him. Elijah challenges the priests of Baal to prepare a sacrifice and to call down fire from heaven to consume it. This they endeavour to do, and the people cry to Baal in choruses of increasing desperation but to no avail.

Elijah then calls the people to him and in the tender aria "Lord God of Abraham" prays to God to show them some great deed that they might once again believe in him. His plea is reinforced by a hymn-like chorus urging the believer and righteous person to trust in God. The people cry out in fearful amazement as they see fire descending to consume the sacrifice. They declare their belief that the Lord is God, and they then cry out for retribution against the false priests of Baal. This scene ends with Elijah's triumphant and spectacular aria "Is not his word like a fire?", a powerful declaration of God's eternal wrath with the wicked.

Obadiah now pleads with Elijah to intercede with God to send rain and end the drought. Elijah and the people pray for relief, and Elijah sends a boy to go to a high place and look towards the sea. Eventually the boy returns to say that he can see clouds approaching. The rain arrives and Part One ends with a great outburst of rejoicing in the chorus "Thanks be to God", as the parched land is bathed in the longed-for rain.

PART TWO: In an aria for soprano, the Israelites are called upon to remember God's promises and to have no fear, whatever happens to other people. The chorus takes up the sentiment in "Be not afraid", a spectacular section that is one of the oratorio's greatest glories. But Ahab's foreign queen Jezebel (alto) stirs up the Israelites by false accusations against Elijah, and they, in their fickleness, call for his death. Obadiah warns him to escape, and he retires to the wilderness where in the powerfully moving aria "It is enough" he longs for death. While he sleeps angels comfort him; here Mendelssohn provides two more jewels of his craft, the matchless three-part female chorus "Lift thine eyes" and the following tutti chorus "He watching over Israel slumbers not nor sleeps", both based on lines from Psalm 121.

When Elijah awakes, he is bidden to go to Mount Horeb. He is tired and despondent at the faithlessness of the Israelites, God's chosen people, but in the aria "O Rest in the Lord" the Angel consoles and strengthens him. The following hymn-like chorus reinforces the point. So Elijah goes to Horeb (Mount Sinai, the holy mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments) and stands before the Lord. In the ensuing chorus, after a mighty storm, an earthquake and a fire, the Lord at last appears to Elijah in a "still, small voice", commanding him to return to the Israelites, for there are still among them people of faith, "knees that have not bowed to Baal". So Elijah returns, and the wonderful works he performs and his ascent into heaven in a fiery chariot are vividly depicted in the glowing chorus "Then did Elijah the prophet break forth like a fire". Finally, in a series of pieces

drawing their texts from the messianic prophecies of Isaiah, soloists and chorus meditate upon the blessings which come to the righteous and the coming of a redeemer, and the oratorio draws to a joyful conclusion with the great chorus of praise, "Lord, our Creator, how excellent thy name is in all the nations".

## Performers

### Malcolm Riley – Conductor

Malcolm Riley, a native of Northallerton, was educated at Harrogate High School. He was Head Chorister and later Assistant Organist of St Peter's Church, Harrogate before gaining, in 1977, an organ scholarship to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he studied with Dr Arthur Wills and Charles Spinks. Following a post-graduate year at Homerton College, Cambridge (where he met his wife, Melanie) he taught for three years at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital in Bristol.

In January 2012 he takes up the post of Director of Music at Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone, having held a similar position at Cranbrook School since September 1985. Next April Malcolm steps down as conductor of Cranbrook and District Choral Society, after twenty-five years.

In addition to his teaching career Malcolm finds time to compose. His Overture *Fairmeadow* was commissioned by Maidstone Symphony Orchestra as the opening piece for its Centenary Season in October 2010. Ten years earlier, the MSO under Brian Wright gave the premiere performance of Malcolm's orchestration of Brahms' *E minor cello sonata*, with Tim Hugh as soloist. In November 2010 Malcolm's score for the film *A Journey Through the Weald of Kent* received critical acclaim.

Malcolm is the author two books on the Kent-born composer and organist Percy Whitlock and also regularly contributes reviews to *Gramophone* magazine.



### Jane Gomm – Orchestra Leader

Sussex-born Jane studied the violin at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Since leaving college she has been a member of the London Mozart Players, the London Festival Orchestra and the Orchestra of St. Johns and in 1986 joined the City of London Sinfonia.

Jane also directs her own chamber music group, The Ruskin Ensemble and has performed with them at the Edinburgh and Brighton Festivals, the British Embassy in Paris, Number 11 Downing Street and music clubs and country houses throughout the British Isles and the Netherlands.





## Jonathan Gunthorpe – Baritone (Elijah)



Jonathan Gunthorpe read English and Russian at Leeds University, gained an MA in music at the Birmingham Conservatoire and furthered his studies at the Royal College of Music and the National Opera Studio. He made his Royal Opera début as Angelotti / *Tosca*, returning as Nachtigall / *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. Other companies with whom he has worked include Almeida Opera, English National Opera, English Touring Opera, La Monnaie (Brussels), La Scala (Milan), the Opéra de Rouen, Opera Holland Park, ROH2 and Welsh National Opera. He also appeared in Deborah Warner's production of *Mother Courage* at London's National Theatre

He has appeared at the BBC Proms with Ex Cathedra and at the Bath, Cheltenham, Lufthansa, Oslo, Perth and Turku Festivals. He made his Wigmore Hall debut with the Brahms Liebeslieder and has

also performed with the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra, the Academy of Ancient Music, the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, the CBSO, the Classical Opera Company, the Gabrieli Consort, the Israel Camerata, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the London Mozart Players, the Northern Sinfonia, the Orchestra of St John's, La Serenissima and The Sixteen. Broadcasts and recordings include BBC Radio 2's Friday Night is Music Night and his recordings further include *Music for the Sun King* (Motets by Lalande) for Hyperion, Neukomm's *Missa Solemnis Pro Die Acclamationis Johannis VI* with La Grande Écurie et la Chambre du Roy for K617 and Paul Spicer's *Easter Oratorio* with the Birmingham Bach Choir.

## Michael Bracegirdle – Tenor



Winner of the Emmy Destinn Award for Young Singers 2006, Michael Bracegirdle qualified as a Chartered Accountant before commencing his studies as a singer at the Royal Northern College of Music.

As a Prize Winner at the Opera Competition and Festival with Mezzo Television, Hungary, he made his New York opera début as Judge Danforth / *The Crucible* with Dicapo Opera Theatre. He has sung Jason / *Medée* for Chelsea Opera Group and Tamino / *The Magic Flute* for English National Opera, as well as appearing with companies including Buxton Festival Opera, English Touring Opera, Longborough Festival Opera, Mid Wales Opera, Opera Holland Park and Scottish Opera, his roles including Don José / *Carmen*, Lyander / *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Nureddin / *The Barber of Baghdad*, Boris / *Katya Kabanova*, Rodolfo / *La bohème*, Cavaradossi / *Tosca*, Jenik / *The Bartered Bride* and Lensky / *Eugene Onegin*.

In concert, he has appeared with Huddersfield Choral Society, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. His broadcasts include Robert Ward's *The Crucible* for Mezzo TV and *Friday Night is Music Night* and *In Tune* for the BBC.

Current engagements include *The Vet / The Doctor's Tale* (ROH2), *Laca / Jenufa* (Opéra de Rennes), *The Prince / L'amour de trois oranges* (Opéra de Limoges) and *Fourth Esquire / Parsifal* (English National Opera).

## **Sally Harrison – Soprano**

Surrey-born, Sally trained at the Royal Northern College of Music with Joseph Ward, and at the National Opera Studio. Since graduating, her career has taken her throughout the UK, to Europe and the Far East. She has appeared with the Classical Opera Company, the English Bach Festival, English National Opera, the Greek National Opera, the Opera Society of Hong Kong, Scottish Opera, and at the Buxton Festival and La Fenice, Venice, in repertoire including Pat Nixon / *Nixon in China*, Micaëla / *Carmen*, Lucia / *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Poppea / *Agrippina*, Romilda / *Xerxes*, Fiordiligi / *Così fan tutte*, Pamina / *The Magic Flute*, Countess Almaviva / *Le nozze di Figaro*, Musetta / *La bohème*, the title role in *Daphne*, The Marschallin / *Der Rosenkavalier*, Yum-Yum / *The Mikado* and Gilda / *Rigoletto*. During 2004 / 2005, she appeared as Carlotta *The Phantom of the Opera* at Her Majesty's Theatre, London.



Her concert repertoire ranges from J. S. Bach, Handel and Mozart through Rossini and Verdi to Elgar, Richard Strauss and Vaughan Williams. Recent engagements have included appearances with the Young Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sussex Symphony Orchestra and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra.

Her recordings include Mercédès / *Carmen* for Chandos and Sultana Rose-in-Bloom / *The Rose of Persia* for cpo and her broadcasts include *Friday Night is Music Night* for BBC Radio 2 and *We Are Klang* for BBC TV.

## **Juliette Pochin – Mezzo Soprano**

Juliette has a hugely varied and successful career as singer, composer, arranger and record producer. She trained at Cambridge and GSMD, graduating with distinction and the highest mark of her year.

Her operatic and concert career has led her to perform with many orchestras all over the world. Operatic highlights have included Madelon / *Il Fortunio* for Grange Park Opera and Dorabella / *Così fan tutte* for Pimlico Opera, whilst concert engagements have included performances with the London Festival Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under conductors including Sir Colin Davis, Sir John Eliot Gardiner and Sir Simon Rattle.

Her debut album, *Venezia* was released by Sony in 2006 to critical acclaim, and nominated Classic fM's *Record Of The Week*. Her recordings further include *Poetry Serenade* (Vocal Music by Brian Knowles) on Signum and *The Sky Shall Be Our Roof* (Rare songs from the operas of Ralph Vaughan Williams) with Ian Burnside on Albion, which was a GRAMOPHONE Editor's Choice CD of the Month for March 2008.



Amongst her other many and varied engagements, Juliette was featured on *Last Night of the Proms* from Salford with the BBC Philharmonic and in a *Battle of Britain* concert with the CBSO.

# The choir



In November 1904 rehearsals began for the **Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society's** first concert, a performance of Brahms' *Requiem*, under the baton of its founder, Francis J Foote, in May 1905. The Society has been staging concerts almost every year for over a hundred years since that inaugural concert. Recent highlights have been the concert to celebrate our Centenary in 2004, when we welcomed the Bach Choir of Wiesbaden to sing with us, many joint concerts with them, both here and in Wiesbaden and a performance of Haydn's *The Creation* in November 2007 to celebrate the 100th birthday of our distinguished President, Roy Douglas.

The Society continues to flourish as membership and audiences grow and we look forward to a future of many more memorable concerts. If you are interested in joining the choir please email Trevor Hurrell at [hurrellt@gmail.com](mailto:hurrellt@gmail.com).

## Sopranos

Diana Blower  
Sylvia Byers  
Heather Champion  
Susan Chandler  
Val Crichton  
Patsy Dale  
Aspen Davidoff  
Jill Dunstall

Joyce Eckert  
Charlotte Eliades  
Elena Gente  
Ann Greenfield  
Barbara Hazelden  
Rosemary Hughes  
Abigail Ingram  
Sariah Jackson

Eve Johnson  
Alison Kain  
Elena Lewis-Grey  
Helen MacNab  
Gaby Malloy  
Barbara Maw  
Anne Metherall

Juliet Nutland Frankel  
Michelle Palmer  
Pat Prior  
Helena Read  
Jane Reed  
Sue Townsend

## Altos

Kate Brown  
Margaret Butcher  
Pauline Coxshall  
Mair Davies  
Judith Day-  
Robinson  
Jean Finch  
Joanna Finlay

Peggy Flood  
Eileen Gall  
Ruth Gray  
Sharon Harrison  
Heather Herrin  
Caroline Horobin  
Sheila Jones  
Margaret Lyall

Shirley Morgan  
Shirley Nankivell  
Sylvia Parsons  
Gillian Penny  
Catherine Rigby  
Rosalyn Robertson  
Shirley Robinson  
Olivia Seaman

Yvonne Spencer  
Audrey Stuart-Black  
Celia Sumner  
Muriel Thatcher  
Jane Walters  
Felicity Wilkin

## Tenors

Jonathan Howard  
Gareth Looker  
John Simmons  
Alan Spencer  
Neil Townsend  
Peter Ward  
Derek Watmough

## Basses

John Atkins  
Brian Akery  
Gerald Chew  
Patrick Connelly  
Roy Dunstall  
Gavin Grant

David Ham  
Mark Hudson  
Trevor Hurrell  
David Jones  
David Lyall  
John Moffat

Mark Rees  
Eric Scott  
Michael Selway  
Clive Steward  
John Spary



# Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society Orchestra

## **First violins**

Jane Gomm  
Gregory Warren-  
Wilson  
Nicky Goodwin  
Ingrid Sellschop  
Tim Good  
Rachel Eyres

## **Second violins**

Rachel Hess  
Joyce Fraser  
Julia Brocklehurst  
Julia Chellel  
Shereen Godber

## **Viola**

Stephen Shakeshaft  
Mike Briggs  
Leonie Anderson  
Emily Righini-Nisbet

## **Cello**

David Burrowes  
Will Bass  
Felix Buser  
Daniel Burrowes

## **Double Bass**

Andrew Laing  
John Summerfield

## **Flute**

Sarah Wicks  
Claire Specht

## **Oboe**

Helen Pye  
Christine Geer

## **Clarinet**

Jane Panayi  
Kate Fish

## **Bassoon**

Julia Staniforth  
Rachel Edmunds

## **Horns**

Ian Stott  
Jason Koczur  
Suzie Koczur  
Chris Gough

## **Trumpets**

Ralph Brill  
Jenny Smith

## **Trombones**

Amy Wetmore  
Geoff Batchelor  
Alastair Warren

## **Ophicléide**

Andrew Kershaw

## **Timpani**

Sebastian Guard

## **Organ**

Christopher Harris

Plus members of the choir of Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School under the leadership of Mrs Sue Waddington, and boy soloist Ben Underhill.



**Note on applause:**

*We are more than happy to hear you applaud if you wish to show your appreciation of the performance! So as to cause as little disruption as possible to the flow of the piece we have indicated places where there is a suitable pause for applause by the symbol: 🖐*

## The words

### Introduction

*Elijah:* As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand: There shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

### Overture

#### Part one

##### 1.

*The People:* Help, Lord! Wilt Thou quite destroy us? The harvest now is over, the summer days are gone, and yet no power cometh to help us! Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion? The deeps afford no water, and the rivers are exhausted. The suckling's tongue now cleaveth for thirst to his mouth. The infant children ask for bread, and there is no one breaketh it to feed them

##### 2.

*The People:* Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer . . .

*Two Women:* Zion spreadeth her hands for aid, and there is neither help nor comfort.

##### 3.

*Obadiah:* Ye people, rend your hearts and not your garments, for your transgressions; the prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to ye: forsake your idols, return to God; for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil.

##### 4.

*Obadiah:* If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me, ye shall ever surely find Me.' Thus saith our God. O! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence!

**5.**

*The People:* Yet doth the Lord see it not, He mocketh at us; His curse hath fallen down upon us, His wrath will pursue us till He destroy us.

For He, the Lord our God, He is a jealous God, and He visiteth all the fathers' sins on the children to the third and the fourth generation of them that hate Him.

His mercies on thousands fall on all them that love Him and keep His commandments.

**6.**

*An Angel:* Elijah! Get thee hence, Elijah! Depart and turn thee eastward: thither hide thee by Cherith's brook. There shalt thou drink its waters; and the Lord thy God hath commanded the ravens to feed thee there: so do according unto His word.

**7.**

*Angels:* For He shall give His angels charge over thee; that they shall protect thee in all the ways thou goest; that their hands shall uphold and guide thee, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

*An Angel:* Now Cherith's brook is dried up, Elijah, arise and depart, and get thee to Zarephath; thither abide: for the Lord hath commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. And the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

**8.**

*A Widow:* What have I to do with thee, O man of God? Art thou come to me to call my sin unto remembrance? To slay my son art thou come thither? Help me, man of God! My son is sick! And his sickness is so sore, that there is no breath left in him! I go mourning all the day long; I lie down and weep at night. See mine affliction. Be thou the orphan's helper. Help my son! There is no breath left in him.

*Elijah:* Give me thy son. Turn unto her, O Lord my God, O turn in mercy; in mercy help this widow's son. For Thou art gracious, and full of compassion, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Lord, my God, let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

*Widow:* Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? There is no breath in him!

*Elijah:* Lord, my God, let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

*Widow:* Shall the dead arise and praise thee?

*Elijah:* Lord, my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

*Widow:* The Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul of my son reviveth!

*Elijah:* Now behold, thy son liveth.

*Widow:* Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that His word in thy mouth is the truth. What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

*Both:* Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, love Him with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. O blessed are they who fear Him!

## 9.

*Chorus:* Blessed are the men who fear Him, they ever walk in the ways of peace. Through darkness riseth light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate; He is righteous.

## 10.

*Elijah:* As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth, before whom I stand, three years this day fulfilled, I will show myself unto Ahab; and the Lord will then send rain again upon the earth.

*Ahab:* Art thou Elijah? Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

*The People:* Thou art Elijah, thou he that troubleth Israel!

*Elijah:* I never troubled Israel's peace: it is thou, Ahab, and all thy father's house. Ye have forsaken God's commands, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now send, and gather to me the whole of Israel unto Mount Carmel; there summon the prophets of Baal, and also the prophets of the groves who are feasted at Jezebel's table. Then we shall see whose God is Lord.

*The People:* And then we shall see whose God is the Lord.

*Elijah:* Rise then, ye priests of Baal; select and slay a bullock, and put no fire under it; uplift your voices and call the god ye worship, and I then will call on the Lord Jehovah; and the god who by fire shall answer, let him be God.

*The People:* Yea, and the God who by fire shall answer, let him be God.

*Elijah:* Call first upon your god, your numbers are many. I, even I, only remain one prophet of the Lord. Invoke your forest gods, and mountain deities.

## 11.

*Priests of Baal:* Baal, we cry to thee, hear and answer us! Heed the sacrifice we offer! Hear us, Baal! Hear, mighty god! Baal, O answer us! Baal, let thy flames fall and extirpate the foe!

## 12.

*Elijah:* Call him louder, for he is a god! He talketh, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey; or, peradventure, he sleepeth: so awaken him! Call him louder, call him louder!

*Priests of Baal:* Hear our cry, O Baal! Now arise! Wherefore slumber?

**13.**

*Elijah:* Call him louder! He heareth not. With knives and lancets cut yourselves after your manner. Leap upon the altar ye have made, call him and prophesy! Not a voice will answer you: none will listen, none heed you.

*Priests of Baal:* Baal! Baal! Hear and answer, Baal! Mark how the scorner derideth us! Hear and answer!

**14.**

*Elijah:* Draw near, all ye people, come to me...

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, this day let it be known that Thou art God, and that I am Thy servant! Lord God of Abraham! O show to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word. O hear me, Lord, and answer me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, O hear me and answer me, and show this people that Thou art Lord God. And let their hearts again be turned!

**15.**

*Angels:* Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He never will suffer the righteous to fall: He is at thy right hand. Thy mercy, Lord, is great, and far above the heavens. Let none be made ashamed, that wait upon Thee!

**16.**

*Elijah:* O Thou, who makest Thine angels spirits; Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires: let them now descend!

*The People:* The fire descends from heaven! The flames consume his offering! Before Him upon your faces fall! The Lord is God, the Lord is God! O Israel hear! Our God is one Lord, and we will have no other gods before the Lord.

*Elijah:* Take all the prophets of Baal, and let not one of them escape you. Bring them down to Kishon's brook, and there let them be slain.

*The People:* Take all the prophets of Baal and let not one of them escape us: bring all and slay them!

**17.**

*Elijah:* Is not His word like a fire, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock into pieces? For God is angry with the wicked every day. And if the wicked turn not, the Lord will whet His sword; and He hath bent His bow, and made it ready.

**18.**

*A Woman:* Woe unto them who forsake Him! Destruction shall fall upon them, for they have transgressed against Him. Though they are by Him redeemed, yet have they spoken falsely against Him, from Him have they fled.



## 19.

*Obadiah:* O man of God, help thy people! Among the idols of the Gentiles, are there any that can command the rain, or cause the heavens to give their showers? The Lord our God alone can do these things.

*Elijah:* O Lord, Thou hast overthrown Thine enemies and destroyed them. Look down on us from heaven, O Lord; regard the distress of Thy people: open the heavens and send us relief: help, help Thy servant now, O God!

*The People:* Open the heavens and send us relief: help, help Thy servant now, O God!

*Elijah:* Go up now, child, and look toward the sea. Hath my prayer been heard by the Lord?

*The Boy:* There is nothing. The heavens are as brass, they are as brass above me.

*Elijah:* When the heavens are closed up because they have sinned against Thee, yet if they pray and confess Thy Name, and turn from their sin when Thou didst afflict them: then hear from heaven, and forgive the sin! Help! send Thy servant help, O God!

*The People:* Then hear from heaven, and forgive the sin! Help! send Thy servant help, O Lord!

*Elijah:* Go up again, and still look toward the sea.

*The Boy:* There is nothing. The earth is as iron under me!

*Elijah:* Hearest thou no sound of rain? Seest thou nothing arise from the deep?

*The Boy:* No, there is nothing.

*Elijah:* Have respect to the prayer of Thy servant, O Lord my God! Unto Thee will I cry, Lord, my rock; be not silent to me; and Thy great mercies remember, Lord!

*The Boy:* Behold, a little cloud ariseth now from the waters; it is like a man's hand! The heavens are black with clouds and with wind: the storm rusheth louder and louder!

*The People:* Thanks be to God for all his mercies!

*Elijah:* Thanks be to God, for He is gracious, and His mercy endureth for evermore!

## 20.

*The People:* Thanks be to God, He laveth the thirsty land! The waters gather, they rush along; they are lifting their voices! The stormy billows are high; their fury is mighty. But the Lord is above them, and Almighty!



INTERVAL – 20 MINUTES

## Part two

### 21.

*Soprano:* Hear ye, Israel; hear what the Lord speaketh: 'O, hadst thou heeded my commandments!' Who hath believed our report: to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and His Holy One, to him oppressed by Tyrants: thus saith the Lord: 'I am he that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee. Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die; and forgettest the Lord thy Maker, who hath stretched forth the heavens, laid the earth's foundations? Be not afraid, for I, thy God, will strengthen thee.'

### 22.

*Chorus:* Be not afraid,' saith God the Lord, 'be not afraid, thy help is near.' God, the Lord thy God, sayeth unto thee, 'be not afraid!' Though thousands languish and fall beside thee, and tens of thousands around thee perish, yet still it shall not come nigh thee.

### 23.

*Elijah:* The Lord hath exalted thee from among the people, and o'er His people Israel hath made thee king. But thou, Ahab, hast done evil to provoke Him to anger above all that were before thee; as if it had been a light thing for thee to walk in the sins of Jeroboam. Thou hast made a grove and an altar to Baal, and served him and worshipped him. Thou hast killed the righteous, and also taken possession. And the Lord shall smite all Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water; and He shall give Israel up, and thou shalt know He is the Lord.

*Jezebel:* Have ye not heard he hath prophesied against all Israel?

*Courtiers:* We heard it with our ears.

*Jezebel:* Hath he not prophesied also against the king?

*Courtiers:* We heard it with our ears.

*Jezebel:* And why hath he spoken in the name of the Lord? Doth Ahab govern the kingdom of Israel while Elijah's power is greater than the king's? The gods do so to me, and more; if by tomorrow about this time, I make not his life as the life of one of them whom he hath sacrificed at the brook of Kishon!

*Courtiers:* He shall perish!

*Jezebel:* Hath he not destroyed Baal's prophets?

*Courtiers:* He shall perish!

*Jezebel:* Yea, by sword he destroyed them all!

*Courtiers:* He destroyed them all!

*Jezebel:* He also closed the heavens...

*Courtiers:* He also closed the heavens...

*Jezebel:* ...and called down a famine upon the land!

*Courtiers:* ...and called down a famine upon the land!

*Jezebel:* So go ye forth and seize Elijah, for he is worthy to die; slaughter him! do unto him as he hath done!

**24.**

*The People:* Woe to him! He shall perish; for he closed the heavens! And why hath he spoken in the Name of the Lord? Let the guilty prophet perish! He hath spoken falsely against our land and us, as we have heard with our ears. So go ye forth; seize on him! he shall die!

**25.**

*Obadiah:* Man of God, now let my words be precious in thy sight. Thus saith Jezebel; 'Elijah is worthy to die'. So the mighty gather against thee, and they have prepared a net for thy steps; that they may seize thee, that they may slay thee. Arise then, and hasten for thy life; to the wilderness journey. The Lord thy God doth go with thee: He will not fail thee, He will not forsake thee. Now begone, and bless me also.

*Elijah:* Though stricken, they have not grieved. Tarry here my servant: the Lord be with thee. I journey hence to the wilderness.

**26.**

*Elijah:* It is enough! O Lord, now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers! I desire to live no longer: now let me die, for my days are but vanity.

I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts, for the children of Israel have broken Thy covenant, and thrown down Thine altars, and slain all Thy prophets, slain them with the sword. And I, even I only am left: and they seek my life to take it away! It is enough! O Lord, now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers. Now let me die, Lord, take away my life.

**27.**

*Tenor:* See, now he sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness, but the angels of the Lord encamp round about all them that fear Him.

**28.**

*Angels:* Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved, thy keeper will never slumber.

**29.**

Angels: He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee.

**30.**

*An Angel:* Arise, Elijah, for thou hast a long journey before thee. Forty days and forty nights shalt thou go to Horeb, the mount of God.

*Elijah:* O Lord, I have laboured in vain; yea, I have spent my strength for nought! O that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down; that the mountains would flow down at Thy presence, to make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, through the wonders of Thy works! O Lord, why hast Thou made them to err from Thy ways and hardened their hearts that they do not fear Thee? O that I now might die!

**31.**

*An Angel:* Oh rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy heart's desires. Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him, and fret not thyself because of evildoers.

**32.**

*Elijah:* Night falleth round me, O Lord! Be Thou not far from me! Hide not Thy face, O Lord, from me, my soul is thirsting for Thee, as a thirsty land.

*An Angel:* Arise now, get thee without, stand on the mount before the Lord: for there His glory will appear, and shine on thee! Thy face must be veiled, for He draweth near.

**33.**

*Chorus:* Behold, God the Lord passed by! And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, brake in pieces the rocks, brake them before the Lord. But yet the Lord was not in the tempest.

Behold, God the Lord passed by! And the sea was upheaved, and the earth was shaken. But yet the Lord was not in the earthquake.

And after the earthquake there came a fire. But yet the Lord was not in the fire.

And after the fire there came a still small voice. And in that still voice onward came the Lord.

**34.**

*Angels:* Go, return upon thy way! For the Lord yet hath left Him seven thousand in Israel, knees which have not bowed to Baal. Go, return upon thy way! Thus the Lord commandeth.

*Elijah:* I go on my way in the strength of the Lord For Thou art my Lord; and I will suffer for Thy sake. My heart is therefore glad, my glory rejoiceth; and my flesh shall also rest in hope.

**35.**

*Elijah:* For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but Thy kindness shall not depart from me; neither shall the covenant of Thy peace be removed.

**36.**

*Chorus:* Then did Elijah the prophet break forth like a fire; his words appeared like burning torches. Mighty kings by him were overthrown. He stood on the mount of Sinai and heard the judgments of the future, and in Horeb its vengeance. And when the Lord would take him away to heaven, lo! there came a fiery chariot with fiery horses; and he went by a whirlwind to heaven.

**37.**

*Tenor:* Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father's realm. Joy on their heads shall be for everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away for ever.

**38.**

*Chorus:* And then shall your light break forth as the light of morning breaketh: and your health shall speedily spring forth then: and the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy Name is in all the nations! Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory.

Amen.





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# Forthcoming concerts to be given by the choir

## Christmas Concert 2011

Sunday December 12th, 6.30pm  
St Mary's Church,  
Goudhurst TN17 1AN

Handel: *Messiah* (excerpts)  
Plus traditional carols performed by  
choir with audience participation.

With the Wadhurst Brass Band.



## Early Spring Concert 2012

Sunday March 11th, 3.00pm  
The Assembly Hall Theatre,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU

Orff: *Carmina Burana*



## Late Spring Concert 2012

Saturday May 19th, 7.00pm  
The Assembly Hall Theatre,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU

Verdi: *Requiem*



## Other local concerts

### Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra

Sunday 4th December 2011 at 3.00pm;  
The Assembly Hall Theatre,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU

Roderick Dunk: conductor  
Lara Melda: piano

Arnold: *The Holly and the Ivy*  
Tchaikovsky: *The Nutcracker Suite*  
John Williams: *Harry Potter & The  
Sorcerer's Stone*

Grieg: *Piano Concerto*

Anderson: *Christmas Festival Overture*

[www.rtwso.org.uk](http://www.rtwso.org.uk)

### Tonbridge Music Club

Saturday 26th November 2011 at  
8.00pm;  
Big School, Tonbridge School

Jack Liebeck: violin  
Katya Apekisheva: piano

Schumann: *Sonata for violin and piano  
No 1 in A minor, Op 105*

Szymanowski: *Three Mythes*

Frank Bridge: *Violin Sonata, H183*

Tchaikovsky: *Valse scherzo in C, Op 34*

[www.tmc.org.uk](http://www.tmc.org.uk)