



*International
Presentations of
Music & Dance*

THE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

May Festival

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

RICCARDO MUTI, *Music Director*
EUGENE ORMANDY, *Conductor Laureate*
WILLIAM SMITH, *Associate Conductor*

THE UNIVERSITY CHORAL UNION

DONALD BRYANT, *Director*

ALDO CECCATO, *Conducting*

SHERRILL MILNES, *Baritone*
(Elijah)

LOUISE RUSSELL, *Soprano*
(The Widow, An Angel, Soprano Solos) LORNA MYERS, *Mezzo-Soprano*
(An Angel, Queen Jezebel, Alto Solos)

HENRY PRICE, *Tenor*
(Obadiah, Ahab, Tenor Solos)

BEJUN MEHTA, *Boy Soprano*
(The Youth)

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 30, 1982, AT 8:30
HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

P R O G R A M

Elijah, A Dramatic Oratorio for Soloists,
Chorus, and Orchestra, Op. 70 FELIX MENDELSSOHN
(1809–1847)

Presented in two parts, with one intermission.

The libretto for *Elijah* was compiled from the Lutheran Bible (mostly but not exclusively the Old Testament) by Mendelssohn's friend Julius Schubring, and translated from German to English by William Bartholomew. Mendelssohn completed the score on August 11, 1846, just fifteen days before its triumphant première at the Birmingham Musical Festival in England, a performance the composer regarded as the greatest success of his life.

Mendelssohn's remarkable fusion of the musical and dramatic is present throughout the work. Part I deals with the curse of drought on the people of Israel, and the triumph of Elijah's God over the worshippers of the idol Baal. Part II shows Elijah's banishment to the wilderness, his holy visions, and his ascent into heaven.

In order that the continuity of the work be maintained, it is requested that the audience refrain from applause until the end of each part of the program.

PART I
INTRODUCTION

Recitative

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

Chorus

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?

Chorus recitatives

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!

Duet and Chorus

THE PEOPLE—Lord! bow Thine ear to our prayer!

DUET—Zion spreadeth her hands for aid; and there is neither help nor comfort.

Recitative and Aria

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 repenteath Him of the evil.

"If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me." Thus saith our God. Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence.

Chorus

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 father's sins on the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him. His mercies on thousands fall—fall on all them that love Him, and keep His commandments.

Recitative

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.

Recitative and Aria

THE 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 hither? 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!

Recitative

ELIJAH—Give me thy son. Turn unto her, O Lord my God: 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!

THE WIDOW—Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? There is no breath in him.

ELIJAH—Lord, my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

THE 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!

THE WIDOW—The Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul of my son reviveth!

ELIJAH—Now behold, thy son liveth!

THE 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 with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. O blessed are they who fear Him!

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.

Recitative and Chorus

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 the Lord.

THE PEOPLE—And then we shall see whose God is God 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.

Recitative

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.

Chorus

PRIESTS OF BAAL—Hear our cry, O Baal! now arise! wherefore slumber?

Recitative

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.

Chorus

PRIESTS OF BAAL—Baal! Baal! Hear and answer, Baal! Mark! how the scorner derideth us! Hear and answer!

Recitative and Aria

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 I am Thy servant! O Show to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word! O hear me, Lord, and answer me; and show this people that Thou art Lord God; and let their hearts again be turned!

Chorus

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!

Recitative

ELIJAH—O Thou, who makest Thine angels spirits; Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires, let them now descend!

Chorus

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

Recitative

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.

Chorus

THE PEOPLE—Take all the prophets of Baal; and let not one of them escape us: bring all, and slay them!

Aria

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.

Aria

Woe unto them who forsake Him! destruction shall fall upon them, for they have transgressed against Him. Though they are by Him redeemed, yet they have spoken falsely against Him, even from Him have they fled. Woe unto them!

Recitative

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.

Recitative and Chorus

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 Thy servant now, O God!

ELIJAH—Go up now, child, and look toward the sea. Hath my prayer been heard by the Lord?

THE YOUTH—There is nothing. The heavens 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 dost 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 God!

ELIJAH—Go up again, and still look
toward the sea.

THE YOUTH—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 YOUTH—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 YOUTH—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 ever-
more!

Chorus

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!

INTERMISSION

PART II

Aria

Hear ye, Israel; hear what the Lord
speaketh: "Oh, 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, and laid the
earth's foundations? Be not afraid, for I,
thy God will strengthen thee."

Chorus

Be not afraid, saith God the Lord. Be
not afraid! thy help is near. God, the Lord
thy God, saith 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.

Recitative

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.

Recitative and Chorus

THE QUEEN—Have ye not heard he hath
prophesied against all Israel?

THE PEOPLE—We heard it with our ears.

THE QUEEN—Hath he not prophesied
also against the King of Israel?

THE PEOPLE—We heard it with our ears.

THE QUEEN—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!

THE PEOPLE—He shall perish!

THE QUEEN—Hath he not destroyed
Baals prophets?

THE PEOPLE—He shall perish!

THE QUEEN—Yea, by the sword he de-
stroyed them all!

THE PEOPLE—He destroyed them all!

THE QUEEN—He also closed the heavens!

THE PEOPLE—He also closed the heavens!

THE QUEEN—And called down a famine
upon the land.

THE PEOPLE—And called down a famine
upon the land.

THE QUEEN—So go ye forth and seize
Elijah, for he is worthy to die; slaughter
him! do unto him as he hath done!

Chorus

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!

Recitative

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.

Aria

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, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword: and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away.

Recitative

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

Trio

THE 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.

Chorus

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

Recitative

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 labored in vain; yea, I have spent my strength for naught! O that Thou wouldest rend the heavens, that Thou wouldest 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!

Aria

AN ANGEL—O 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 evil doers.

Recitative

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.

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.

Recitative and Aria

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.

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.

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.

Aria

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

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 ever shall reward you.

Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy name is in all the nations! Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory. Amen!

UNIVERSITY CHORAL UNION

DONALD BRYANT, *Conductor*

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, *Assistant Conductor*

NANCY HODGE, *Accompanist*

STEPHEN BATES, *Manager*

First Sopranos

Patsy Auiler
Lola Bradstreet
Suanna Breed
Letitia Byrd
Susan Campbell
Elaine Cox
Barbara Dombroski
Beth Duncan
Kathryn Elliott
Lisa Fishbaugh
Carol Gagliardi
Carole Gallas
Julie Giuliani
Barbara Gockel
Sylvia Jenkins
Marilyn Jones
Rebecca Kress
Carolyn Leyh
Kathleen Lin
Doris Luecke
Loretta Meissner
Linda Mickelson
Cheryl Murphy
Anne Nisch
Nancy Orr
Cassie St. Clair
Alice Schneider
Caryn Spielman
Charlotte Stanek
Joanne Westman

Suzanne Schluederberg
Marie Schneider
Marcia Stalvey
Elizabeth
Stewart-Robinson
Ann Stout
Patricia Tompkins
Linda Van Pelt
Barbara Wallgren
Christine Wendt
Kathleen Young

Helen Thornton
Terri Turner
Jane Van Bolt
Joanne Veroff
Charlotte Wolfe
Barbara Wooding

Wayne Klug
Michael Kopke
Kenneth Nisch
Richard Olson
James Priore
John Rocus
Carl Smith
Nicolas Williams
James Wheaton

First Altos

Martha Ause
Susan Berman
Phyllis Bogarin
Kay Bohn
Kathlyn Boyer
Ella Brown
Marion Brown
Lael Cappaert
Jari Carver
Rosalyn Chrenka
Cheryl Cox
Mary Crichton
Arlene Dobberstein
Molly Egan
Carolyn Ehrlich
Daisy Evans
Marilyn Finkbeiner
Ruth Gewanter
Kay Hannah

Sandra Anderson
Marjorie Baird
Eleanor Beam
Andrea Foote
Alice Galbraith
Lois Guebert
Mary Haab
Katherine Klykylo
Elsie Lovelace
Barbara Maes
Cheryl Melby
Karen Nowak
Mary Peterson
Mary Price
Mary Quade
Beverly Roeger
Marilyn Siegel
Carol Spencer
Kathryn Stebbins
Rosemary Walker
Alice Warsinski
Helen Welford

First Basses

Richard Bachmann
Marion Beam
Dan Broderick
Robert Brothers
John Brueger
Jeffrey Burke
Thomas Cox
Peter DeHart
Robert Dills II
David Duttenhofer
James Ellenberger
Dwight Fontenot
John Jones
Marshall Jorgensen
Daniel Kaller
Klair Kissel
Lawrence Lohr
Sol Metz
Charles Morgan
Stephen Price
James Schneider
Joseph Shacter
Richard Stock
David Timm
Albert Vegter
David Walter
Steven White
Donald Williams

Second Sopranos

Darby Anderson
Christine Arnison
Judy Barber
Harriet Bell
Kathy Berry
Virginia Burr
Marilyn Buss
Young Cho
Clair Conrad
Jane Covert
Ann Dills
Deborah Forbes
Anita Goldstein
Janet Griffin-Bell
Kim Richardson Hippler
Judith Lehmann
Mary Loewen
Pamela Meil
Charlotte Nametz
Eleanor Overdeck
Sara Peth
Robina Quale
Virginia Reese
Ann Schebor

Virginia Hmay
Margaret Hostetler
Nancy Houk
Carol Hurwitz
Marta Johnson
Olga Johnson
Nancy Karp
Geraldine Koupal
Kristine Langabeer
Judith Levey
Rosemary Lewis
Frances Lyman
Barbara McCann
Bernice McCoy
Anne Merenda
Jean Morgan
Lois Nelson
Kathleen Nolff
Patricia Perry
Lauren Ruby
Cathy Selvius-DeRoo
Linda Siebert
Debora Slee
Claudia Sturmer
Georgiana Swinford

First Tenors
Hugh Baker
Hugh Brown
Kenneth Burdette
Tim Dombrowski
Roy Glover
Paul Lowry
Robert MacGregor
Duane Novelly
Bernard Patterson
Frederick Schebor

Second Basses
Victor Abdella
Charles Breed
Gabriel Chin
Brian Dent
Bruce Dicey
John Dunkelberger
Lowell Fisher
Richard Gong
James Legee
Charles Lehmann
Bruce McCuaig
Robert Shellenberger
Robert Strozier
Terril Tompkins
John Van Bolt

On May 8, sixty members of the Choral Union, under conductor Bryant, will begin a two-week concert tour of Spain at the invitation of the Spanish Ministry of Culture. The concerts are in conjunction with the Festival of the 400th Anniversary of El Greco, and will be performed in cathedrals in Toledo, Salamanca, Segovia, and in Madrid's famed Prado Museum. Chorus members will also visit Cordoba, Seville, Granada, Valencia, and Barcelona.

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

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