

The Hythe Singers Easter Concert



# Mendelssohn

# ELIJAH

Conductor: Richard Harker

The Marlow Ensemble (Leader: Katie Holmes)

Sunday 6th April 2025 - 7pm

TASIS England, Thorpe, TW20 8SJ

Featuring:

Juliet Montgomery - Soprano  
Ellen Roberts - Treble  
Joshua Elmore - Countertenor  
George Curnow - Tenor  
André Soares - Bass



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Felix MENDELSSOHN (1809 – 1847)

# Elijah

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 7pm  
in the Fleming Theatre of  
TASIS England



*(Patrons – Cecilia McDowall, Richard Mothersill and Ben Spencer)*

Soprano

Melanie Andriesma  
Kate Brady  
Demelza Coppin  
Ann Corfield  
Joan Hellyer  
Jo Ive  
Mary Morris  
Myra Owen  
Selena Ramdeen  
Sophie Rose  
Rebecca Saunders  
Cathy Villiers  
Carolyn Walters  
Suzy Wood

Alto

Vivienne Ambery-Smith  
Alison Hatherall  
Bridín Mills  
Sarah Morris  
Elaine Sturman  
Chris Thomas  
Susi Thornton  
Jenni Whiteside

Tenor

Jason Crampton  
Tony Dowson  
David Moncur  
Brian Tibbels

Bass

Neil Barton  
Daniel Brown  
Kiran Chatterjee  
Rüdiger Schack

**Juliet Montgomery (Soprano)**

**Joshua Elmore (Countertenor)**

**George Curnow (Tenor)**

**André Soares (Baritone)**

**Ellen Roberts (Treble)**

**The Marlow Ensemble (Leader: Katie Holmes)**

**Répétiteur: Berrak Dyer**

**Musical Director: Richard Harker**

The idea of an oratorio on the subject of Elijah first arose in 1836, when Mendelssohn was just twenty-seven years old. The composer was implored by a friend, Karl Klingeman, who at the time was involved in staging a performance of Mendelssohn's *St. Paul*, to "give all the care you now bestow upon *St. Paul* to an 'Elijah', or a 'St. Peter', or even an 'Og of Bashan'". Alas, neither a 'St. Peter' or an 'Og of Bashan' ever saw the light of day, and it took until 1846 for *Elijah* to be shaped, and then readied for its premiere in Birmingham Town Hall, at the city's world-renowned Triennial Music Festival.

Mendelssohn collaborated on and off for much of those ten years with the Rev. Julius Schubring to develop the plan for the work, and make selections from scripture that, when brought together, would bring to life Mendelssohn's vision of *Elijah* as a "thorough prophet, such as we might require again in our own day – energetic and zealous, but also stern, wrathful, and gloomy ... in opposition to the world, and yet borne on angel's wings". The work was given greater impetus, and a deadline, when in July 1845, Mendelssohn accepted a commission from the Birmingham Festival to be its conductor for 1846, and with it, an invitation to provide an oratorio for the occasion. *Elijah* was the obvious choice.

Having recently founded the Leipzig Conservatory, however, and being also required to spend much time in Berlin at the request of the King of Prussia, Friedrich Wilhelm IV, Mendelssohn was far from sure that *Elijah* would be ready in time, and the effort to finish the piece, on top of his other commitments, appears to have consumed every spare moment of his time. He wrote to his sister in the spring that "I am more driven than ever, as an immense piece of 'Elijah' is not yet copied, whilst the first part is already in rehearsal in England... The first thing tomorrow morning I shall shut myself up and decline to budge till 'Elijah' is finished".

William Bartholomew, with whom Mendelssohn worked closely on the English translation of 'Elijah', reported that the last chorus was not received until nine days before the Festival. The letters between

Bartholomew and Mendelssohn in which they finalised the translation show their great mutual respect, and painstaking care in musical and lyrical details, down to the level of individual words. When the foes of Baal are to be extirpated (No. 11), debate ensues as to whether they are to be extirpated, or extirpated – Bartholomew, and the former, win the day!

The first performance, in Birmingham Town Hall and conducted by the composer, was a great success. The Times wrote “Never was there a more complete triumph – never a more speedy recognition of a work of art”. Mendelssohn went on to perform the work several times in England the following year, despite being in fragile health, and the first performance in German took place in October 1847 in Hamburg. Mendelssohn was then due to perform the work in Berlin and Vienna, but a severe stroke left him partially paralysed, and he died on 4<sup>th</sup> November, aged just 38. The Vienna performance became a mourning service, with Mendelssohn’s empty rostrum draped in black.

In the wake of his death, Mendelssohn was much mourned, both in England and in Germany. However, his success, popularity, and the Jewish origins of his family brought antisemitic attention from Richard Wagner, setting a tone that led to his music being banned in Germany under the Nazi regime. It was only in the post-war years that a re-appreciation of his works and talents has placed them fully in context.

Today, he is recognised as one of the greatest child prodigies of western music. Goethe met Mendelssohn in 1821, when Goethe was in his seventies and Mendelssohn was aged about 11, and said of him “What he can do in extemporizing and playing at sight borders the miraculous ... what Mendelssohn already accomplishes bears the same relation to the Mozart of that time that the cultivated talk of a grown-up bears to the prattle of a child”.

For Mendelssohn’s own music, and for his instrumental contribution to the rediscovery and revival of the music of both Bach and Handel, we have much to be thankful for.

# Elijah – Part 1

## **Introduction: As God the Lord of Israel liveth**

**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. [1 Kings 17:11]

## **Overture**

### **1. Chorus: Help, Lord!**

**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! [Jeremiah 8:20] Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion? [Jer. 8:19]

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! [Lamentations 4:4]

### **2. Duet with Chorus: Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer**

**The People:** Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer. [Psalm 86:1,6]

**Duet:** Zion spreadeth her hands for aid, and there is neither help nor comfort. [Lam. 1:17]

### **3. Recitative: Ye people, rend your hearts**

**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. [Joel 2:12,13]

### **4. Air: If with all your hearts**

**Obadiah:** If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me, ye shall ever surely find Me. Thus saith our God. [Deuteronomy 4:29; Jer. 29:13]

Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence. [Job 23:3]

## 5. Chorus: Yet doth the Lord see it not

**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. [Dt. 28:15; 28:22]

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 – fall on all them that love him and keep his commandments. [Exodus 20:5,6]

## 6. Recitative: Elijah, get thee hence

**An Angel:** Elijah! Get thee hence; 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. [1 Kgs 17:3-5]

## 7. Double Quartet & Recitative: For He shall give his angels charge over thee

**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. [Ps. 91:11.12]

**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. [1 Kgs. 17:7.9.14]

## 8. Recitative & Air: What have I to do with thee?

**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? [1 Kgs. 17:18]

Help me, man of God! My son is sick! And his sickness is so sore, that there is no breath left in him! [1 Kgs. 17:17] I go mourning all the day long; [Ps. 38:6]

I lie down and weep at night. [Ps. 6:6] See mine affliction. [Job 10:15] Be thou the orphan's helper! [Ps. 10:14]

**Elijah:** Give me thy son. [1 Kgs. 17:19] 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. [Ps. 86:16,15] Lord my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live. [1 Kgs. 17:21]

**The Widow:** Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee? [Ps. 88:10]

**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! My son reviveth! [1 Kgs. 17:22]

**Elijah:** Now behold, thy son liveth! [1 Kgs. 17:23]

**The Widow:** Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that His word in thy mouth is the truth. [1 Kgs. 17:24] What shall I render to the Lord, for all his benefits to me? [Ps. 116:12]

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

**Both:** Thou shalt love the Lord thy God; with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. [Dt. 6:5] O blessed are they who fear Him! [Ps. 128:1]

## 9. Chorus: Blessed are the men who fear Him

Blessed are the men who fear Him, they ever walk in the way of peace. Through darkness riseth light, light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate; He is righteous. [Ps. 112:1,4]

## 10. Recitative & Chorus: As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth

**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. [1 Kgs. 18:15, 1]

**Ahab:** Art thou Elijah! He that troubleth Israel! [1 Kgs. 18:15,1]

**The People:** Thou art Elijah, 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! [1 Kgs. 18:18]



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. [1 Kgs. 18:19,21]

**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. [1 Kgs. 18:23,24]

**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. [1 Kgs. 18:22. 25]

### **11. Chorus: Baal, we cry to thee**

**Priests of Baal:** Baal, we cry to thee; hear and answer us! Heed the sacrifice we offer! Hear us, O hear us, Baal! [1 Kgs. 18:26] Hear, mighty god! Baal, O answer us! Let thy flames fall and extirpate the foe! O hear us, Baal!

### **12. Recitative & Chorus: Call him louder!**

**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! [1 Kgs. 18:27]

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

### **13. Recitative & Chorus: Call him louder!**

**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. [1 Kgs. 18:28, 26, 29]

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

### **14. Recitative & Air: Lord God of Abraham**

**Elijah:** Draw near, all ye people: come to me! [1 Kgs. 18:30]

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! [1 Kgs. 18:36, 37]

### **15. Quartet: Cast thy burden upon the Lord**

**Angels:** Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee. He will never suffer the righteous to fall: [Ps. 55:22] He is at thy right hand. [Ps. 16:8]

Thy mercy, Lord, is great, and far above the heavens. [Ps. 108:4] Let none be made ashamed, that wait upon Thee! [Ps. 25:3]

### **16. Recitative & Chorus: O Thou, who makest thine Angels, Spirits**

**Elijah:** O Thou, who makest Thine Angels Spirits; – Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires; [Ps. 104:4] 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: [1 Kgs. 18:38, 39]

O Israel hear! Our God is one Lord: [Dt. 6:4] and we will have no other Gods before the Lord! [Dt. 5:7]

**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. [1 Kgs. 18:40]

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

### **17. Air: Is not His word like a fire!**

**Elijah:** Is not His word like a fire, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? [Jer. 23:29]

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. [Ps. 7:11, 12]

### **18. Air: Woe unto them who forsake Him!**

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. [Hosea 7:13]

## 19. Recitative & Chorus: O man of God, help thy people!

**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. [Jer. 14:22]

**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! [2 Chronicles 6:27]

**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? ]1 Kgs. 18:43]

**The Youth:** There is nothing. The heavens are as brass above me! [Dt. 28:23]

**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! [2 Chron. 6:26, 27]

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

**Elijah:** Go up again, and still look towards the sea. [1 Kgs. 18:43]

**The Youth:** There is nothing. The earth is as iron under me! [Dt. 28:23]

**Elijah:** Hearest thou no sound of rain? [1 Kgs. 18:41] 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! [2 Chron. 6:19] Unto Thee will I cry, Lord, my rock; be not silent to me; [Ps. 28:1] 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! [1 Kgs. 18:44, 45]

**The People:** Thanks be to God for all His mercies! [Ps. 106:1]

**Elijah:** Thanks be to God, for He is gracious; and His mercy endureth for evermore! [Ps. 106:1]

## **20. Chorus: Thanks be to God!**

**The People:** Thanks be to God! He laveth the thirsty land! The waters gather; they rush along, they are lifting their voices! [Ps. 93:3]

The stormy billows are high; their fury is mighty. But the Lord is above them and Almighty! [Ps. 93:4]

## INTERVAL – 20 Minutes

### Elijah – Part 2

## **21. Air: Hear ye, Israel**

Hear ye, Israel: hear what the Lord speaketh:– “Oh, hadst thou heeded my commandments!” [Isaiah 48:1, 18]

Who hath believed our report; to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? [Isa. 53:11]

Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and His Holy One to him oppressed by tyrants: [Isa. 49:7] thus saith the Lord:–

I am He that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee! [Isa. 41:10] 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? [Isa. 51:12,13] Be not afraid, for I, thy God will strengthen thee.

## **22. Chorus: Be not afraid**

“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!” [Isa. 41:10]

Though thousands languish and fall beside thee, and tens of thousands around thee perish; yet still it shall not come nigh thee. [Ps. 91:7]

## **23. Recitative & Chorus: The Lord hath exalted thee**

**Elijah:** The Lord hath exalted thee from among the people: and over his people Israel hath made thee king. [1 Kgs. 14:7]

But thou, Ahab, hast done evil to provoke him to anger above all that were before thee: [1 Kgs. 16:30] as if it had been a light thing to walk in the sins of Jereboam.

Thou hast made a grove and an altar to Baal, and served him and worshipped him. [1 Kgs. 16:31, 32, 33] Thou has killed the righteous, and also taken possession. [1 Kgs. 21:19]

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. [1 Kgs. 14:15, 16]

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

**Chorus:** We heard it with our ears. [Jer. 26:11]

**The Queen:** Hath he not prophesied also against the King of Israel?

**The Chorus:** We heard it with our ears.

**The Queen:** And why hath he spoken in the name of the Lord? [Jer. 26:9] Doth Ahab govern the kingdom of Israel while Elijah's power is greater than the king's? [1 Kgs. 21:7]

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! [1 Kgs. 19:2]

**The Chorus:** He shall perish!

**The Queen:** Hath he not destroyed Baal's prophets?

**Chorus:** He shall perish!

**The Queen:** Yea, by the sword he destroyed them all!

**Chorus:** He destroyed them all!

**The Queen:** He also closed the heavens! [Ecclesiasticus 48:3]

**Chorus:** He also closed the heavens!

**The Queen:** And called down a famine upon the land. [Ecclus. 48:2]

**Chorus:** And called down a famine upon the land.

**The Queen:** So go ye forth and seize Elijah, for he is worthy to die; [Jer. 26:11] slaughter him! Do unto him as he hath done!

## 24. Chorus: Woe to him!

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. [Jer. 26:11] So go ye forth; seize on him! He shall die!

## 25. Recitative: Man of God

**Obadiah:** Man of God, now let my words be precious in thy sight. [2 Kgs. 1:13] Thus saith Jezebel:– “Elijah is worthy to die”. [Jer. 26:11] So the mighty gather against thee, [Ps. 59:3] and they have prepared a net for thy steps; [Ps. 57:6] 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. [Dt. 31:6] Now begone, and bless me also. [Ex. 12:32]

**Elijah:** Though stricken, they have not grieved! [Jer. 5:3] Tarry here my servant: the Lord be with thee. [1 Samuel 17:37]

I journey hence to the wilderness. [1 Kgs. 19:4]

## 26. Air: It is enough

**Elijah:** It is enough, O Lord; now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers! [1 Kgs. 19:4] I desire to live no longer: now let me die, for my days are but vanity! [Job 7:16]

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. [1 Kgs. 19:10]

## 27. Recitative: See, now he sleepeth

See, now he sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness: [1 Kgs. 19:5] and there the angel of the Lord encampeth round about all them that fear Him. [Ps. 34:7]

## 28. Trio: Lift thine eyes

(Soloists: Rebecca Saunders, Carolyn Walters, and Jenni Whiteside)

**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. [Ps. 121:1,2,3]

## 29. Chorus: He, watching over Israel

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. [Ps. 121:4] Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee. [Ps. 138:7]

## 30. Recitative: Arise, Elijah!

**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. [1 Kgs. 19:7, 8]

**Elijah:** O Lord, I have laboured in vain; yea, I have spent my strength for naught, and in vain! [Isa. 49:4]

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! [Isa. 64:1, 2]

O Lord, why hast Thou made them to err from Thy ways, and hardened their hearts that they do not fear Thee? [Isa. 63:17] O that I now might die! [1 Kgs. 19:4]

## 31. Air: O rest in the Lord

**An Angel:** O rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him; [Ps. 37:7] and He shall give thee thy heart's desires. [Ps. 37:4]

Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him, [Ps. 37:5] and fret not thyself because of evil-doers. [Ps. 37:1]

## 32. Chorus: He that shall endure to the end

He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved. [Matthew 24:13]

## 33. Recitative: Night falleth round me

**Elijah:** Night falleth round me, O Lord! Be not Thou not far from me! [Ps. 22:19] Hide not Thy face, O Lord, from me; my soul is thirsting for Thee, as a thirsty land. [Ps. 143: 7, 6]

**An Angel:** Arise now! Get thee without, stand on the mount before the Lord; [1 Kgs. 19:11] for there His glory will appear and shine on thee. Thy face must be veiled, [1 Kgs. 19:13] for He draweth near.

#### **34. Chorus: Behold, God the Lord passed by!**

Behold! God the Lord passed by! And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, break in pieces the rocks, break them before the Lord: but yet the Lord was not in the tempest. [1 Kgs. 19:11]

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. [1 Kgs. 19:11]

And after the earthquake there came a fire: but yet the Lord was not in the fire. [1 Kgs. 19:12]

And after the fire there came a still small voice; [1 Kgs. 19:12] and in that still voice, onward came the Lord.

#### **35. Recitative, Quartet & Chorus: Holy, holy, holy**

**(Soloists: Demelza Coppin, Myra Owen, Alison Hatherall, and Bridín Mills)**

Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another: [Isa. 6:2, 3]

**Angels & Chorus:** Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord – the Lord Sabaoth! Now His glory hath filled all the earth. [Isa. 6:3]

#### **36. Recitative: Behold, God hath sent Elijah**

Behold, God hath sent Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children unto their fathers; lest the Lord shall come and smite the earth with a curse. [Malachi 4:5, 6]

#### **37. Chorus: But the Lord, from the north has raised one**

But the Lord, from the north has raised one, who from the rising of the sun shall call upon His name and come on princes. [Isa 41:25]

Behold my servant and mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth! [Isa. 42:1] On him the Spirit of God shall rest: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of might and of counsel, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. [Isa. 11:2]

**Quartet:** O come every one that thirsteth, O come to the waters: come unto Him. O hear, and your souls shall live for ever! [Isa. 55:1, 3]



### **38. Chorus: And then shall your light break forth**

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. [Isa. 58:8]

Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy Name is in all the nations! Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory. [Ps. 8:1] Amen!

The New Novello Choral Edition

Text derived from the Lutheran Bible by Julius Schubring (1839 – 1914)

English version by William Bartholomew (1793 – 1867)

Note that Eccus. refers to Ecclesiasticus (in the Apocrypha), not Ecclesiastes.

Programme: Daniel Brown & Jason Crampton

### **In Memoriam**

This programme is dedicated to the memory of Chris Orr, a founding member of The Hythe Singers who for over 20 years served as the editor of its concert programmes.

## **Richard Harker (Musical Director)**

Richard is musical director of The Hythe Singers, Henley Choral Society and Henley Youth Choir. He is a Chorus Master at Opera Holland Park and works as a music teacher in schools. Richard is an organist and accompanist, and graduated with an MA in Choral Conducting from the Royal Academy of Music. Richard read music at, and was organ scholar of, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

At Opera Holland Park Richard has worked on *Pagliacci*, *La Bohème*, *La Traviata*, *Eugene Onegin* (Assistant Conductor & Chorus Master), *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*; *Manon Lescaut* and *Un ballo in maschera* (Chorus Master), *Ruddigore* and *Pirates of Penzance* (Chorus Master and Assistant Repetiteur). Other operatic engagements have included *L'Elisir d'amore* for West Green House Opera (Chorus Master), *HMS Pinafore* for Windsor and Eton Opera (Conductor), Terterian's *Fire Ring* at the Grimeborn Festival with London Armenian Opera (Conductor).

## **Juliet Montgomery (Soprano)**

Scottish soprano Juliet Montgomery graduated with a BMus(Hons), PGDip and MMus from the Royal Northern College of Music.

Since graduating, Juliet has performed with Scottish Opera and Opera North and she was a member of the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company for six seasons. She was a Young Artist in Buxton Opera's *MacBeth* and she joined Glyndebourne for their 2022 autumn / winter tour where she performed in *La Bohème* and concert performances of Mozart's *Requiem*. In 2023, Juliet performed in Stravinsky's *Les Noces* with English National Ballet at Sadler's Wells and last summer she sung in Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard* at Opera Holland Park.

Her most recent engagements include performing the role of Frasquita in *Carmen* (Opera on Location), being soprano soloist in Beethoven's *9th Symphony* (Bolton Symphony Orchestra) and performing the role of Elsie in *The Golden Legend* (Occento Choir). In Spring / Summer 2025 Juliet looks forward to performing in *The Merry Widow* and *A Matter of Misconduct!* at Scottish Opera and covering the role of Annina in *La Traviata* at Opera Holland Park.

Juliet is also a keen oratorio soloist and recitalist and she regularly performs opera galas with her husband, baritone Aidan Edwards. Other concert highlights include being guest soloist with the Bulava chorus at the Notre Dame in Paris and

the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Kiev and singing Mahler's *Rückert Lieder* with orchestra at the Howard Assembly Room in Leeds.

## **George Curnow (Tenor)**

George is a Welsh tenor and recent graduate of the Opera Programme at the Royal Academy of Music.

In the 2024 Season, George was a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne, covering the role of Viscount Cascada in Lehar's *The Merry Widow* and was a chorus member in *Carmen*, *The Merry Widow*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and *Tristan und Isolde*. He returned to Glyndebourne for the Autumn season performing the role of Giuseppe and covering Gastone in *La Traviata*.

At RAM, George performed the roles of Don Curzio in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Edoardo in Rossini's *La cambiale di matrimonio*, Lurcanio in Handel's *Ariodante*, and the title role in Britten's *Albert Herring*. In 2023 George performed the role of Agenore in Mozart's *Il re pastore* at the Buxton International Festival.

Looking ahead, George returns to Glyndebourne for the 2025 summer season performing as a Squire and covering Grail Knight in Wagner's *Parsifal*, and covering Kudrjas in Janacek's *Kata Kabanova*.

Recent competition successes include second prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards Competition 2023 and first prize in the Dunraven Welsh Young Singer of the Year Awards 2023.

## **Joshua Elmore (Countertenor)**

Joshua Elmore is a native of Mobile, Alabama, USA. He studied at the University of Southern Mississippi where he received a bachelor's degree in music education and at the University of Leeds where he received a master's degree in vocal performance. He has performed in the US, the Caribbean, Europe, and the UK where he presented several recitals, premiered pieces, and has been the soloist in numerous works. He was also recently supported vocally through the National Opera Studio's Diverse Voices Programme.

His musical engagements include: Countertenor Chorister - *Seven Last Words* (English National Opera Chorus), 'Louella Dawson' - *Fame and Envy* (Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera), Countertenor Chorister - *Pagliacci* (Opera Holland Park Chorus), 'Agdistis' - *Staged Messiah*, 'La Maestra Delle Novizie' - *Suor Angelica* (Carmina Priapea Opera Company), 'Cat' - *Brundibar* (Boco Arts), Alto/Mezzo Soprano soloist - Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* (Canbury Singers), Alto soloist -

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* (St. Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond Choir, and with The Hythe Singers), and 'Ruth / Zorah'- *Ruddigore* (Leeds University Opera Society). Countertenor Chorister – *La Boheme* (Opera Holland Park Chorus).

He also appeared on BBC News: Africa where he sang and was interviewed to assist in promoting Pegasus Opera Company's online concert. In his spare time, Elmore enjoys exercising, eating, traveling, and laughing with friends over a pint (not simultaneously or in that order).

## **André Batalha Soares (Baritone)**

André Batalha Soares is a baritone from Portugal. He started his vocal studies in 2009 at the Conservatório Regional do Baixo Alentejo and later in the Academia de Música de Lagos with Joana Godinho as principal teacher. Here he began his path in classical singing while performing in Musical Theatre projects in parallel. André performed in *West Side Story* (2009), *Peter Pan* (2010), *Cabaret* (2012) and *Sweeney Todd* (2014).

After moving to the UK in 2015, André performed numerous concerts as part of The London Chorus and Highgate Choral Society under Ronald Corp where he would occasionally perform as a soloist.

In 2018, he started his Undergraduate degree and in 2022, he graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) with Gary Coward as his principal teacher moving on to join the David Seligman Opera School in the same year to begin his MA in Advanced Opera Performance studying under Adrian Thompson.

André's studies are currently supported by the Leverhulme trust and André is also the recipient of the Philippa and David Seligman prize for excellence in performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD).

Recent engagements include Chorus in the Judith Weir opera *Miss Fortune* (GSMD), Frank in *Die Fledermaus* (GSMD), Benoit / Alcindoro in *La Bohème* (North Wales Opera Studio), Guglielmo in *Così Fan Tutte* (Cardiff Opera and later in NWOS), Chorus in *The Shoemaker* (Welsh National Opera), Gaoler in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (RWCMD), Vater in Humperdinck's *Hansel und Gretel* (RWCMD), Schaunard in Puccini's *La Bohème* (Cardiff Opera), the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* (RWCMD), Chorus in *Pagliacci* (Opera Holland Park), as well as chorus in *Rigoletto* (WNO), *Peter Grimes* (WNO) and upcoming work with Opera Holland Park once more with *La Traviata* and *Lucia de Lammermoor*.

## Ellen Roberts (Treble)

Ellen Roberts is 12 and attends St Mary's School, Cambridge where she is a music scholar. Outside school she sings with the Girls' Choir of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and has recently gained a place in the National Youth Choir (9-15 years) so is looking forward to singing with them for the first time. As well as singing, Ellen plays the violin and trombone.

## Acknowledgements

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