

The Lycoming College Music Department

presents the

LYCOMING COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR

Noon Friday, March 22, 1996 Clarke Chapel

Elijah, Part I Felix Mendelssohn

Elijah-David Wunder

Solo Quartet-I-Adeline Noto, Tami Hull,

Charles Edmonds, Michael Johnson

Soprano/Alto duet-Carina Mausteller, Dixie Albro

Obadiah-Lisa Moore

Tenor-Jason Luciana

Solo Quartet-II-Adeline Noto, Heather Duda,

Charles Edmonds, Matthew Pavelko

Baritone-Trevor Loehr

Alto-Dionna Bennett

The Youth-Ginger Hale

*The Lycoming College Chamber Choir will present a second performance of *Elijah, Part I* on Sunday, March 24, 1996 during the 10:30 a.m. church service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, Pa.

Elijah 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. (I Kings XVII 1)

Overture

Chorus-The People, and Quartet I

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?

(Jeremiah VIII 19, 20)

Recitative-Quartet I

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!

(I Kings XVII 7. Lamentations IV 4)

Soprano/Alto Duet with Chorus-The People

Lord! bow Thine ear to our prayer!

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

(Psalm LXXXVI 1. Lamentations I 17)

Recitative-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 II 12, 13)

Air- Tenor

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.

(Deut. IV 29. Job XXIII 3)

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.

(Deut. XXVIII 22. Exodus XX 5)

Chorus and Quartet II

Blessed are the men who fear Him: they everywalk in the ways of peace.
Through darkness riseth light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate: He
is righteous. (Psalm CXXVIII 1: CXII 1, 4)

Recitative-Elijah and Chorus

-Elijah

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

-Chorus

Thou art Elijah, he that troubleth Israel!

-Elijah

I never trouble Israel's peace: it is thou, Ahab and all thy father's house. Ye have
forsaken God's command; and thou hast followed false gods! 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.

-Chorus

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.

-Chorus

Yea: and the God who shall answer us by the fire. He is 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. (I Kings XVIII 1, 15, 17-19, 22-5)

Chorus-Priests of Baal

Baal, we cry to thee; hear and answer us! O hear and answer us! Hear us, Baal!
Hear, mighty god! Baal, O answer us! Baal, let thy flames fall and devourer the
foe! Baal, O hear us!

Recitative-Elijah

Call him louder, for he is a god! He talketh; or he is pursuing; or he is on a jour-
ney; 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-Preists or Baal

Hear and answer, Baal! Mark! how the scorner derideth us! Give an answer!

(I Kings XVIII 26-9)

Air-Baritone

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel! this day let it be known that Thou art God; and he is Thy servant! O show to all this people that he has done these things according to Thy word! O hear him Lord, and answer him and show this people that Thou art Lord God; and let their hearts again be turned!

(I Kings XVIII 30, 36, 37)

Choral-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.

(Psalms LV 22; XVI 8, CVIII 4, XXV 3)

Recitative-Elijah

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

Chorus-The People

The fire descends from haven; 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!

(I Kings XVIII 38, 39. Deut. V 7; VI 4)

Recitative-Elijah

Take all the prophets of Baal; and let not one of them escape you.

(I Kings XVIII 40)

Chorus-The People

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

(I Kings XVIII 40)

Arioso-Alto

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.

(Hosea VII 13)

Recitative with Chorus---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 with the People

O Lord, Thou has 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 Youth

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

Elijah with the People

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 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 with the People

Have respect to the prayer of Thy servant, O Lord, my God! Unto Thee I will 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 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!

The People

Thanks be to God! He reviveth 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! (Jeremiah XIV 22. II Chronicles VI 19, 26, 27. Deut. XXVII 23. Psalms XXVIII 1 CVI 1; 1 Kings XVIII 43-5. Psalm XCIII 3-4)

LYCOMING COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR

Richard Lakey, Organist
Rebecca Eickhoff, Accompanist
Fred Thayer, Conductor

Soprano

Ginger Hale
Carina Mausteller
Lisa K. Moore
Adeline Noto
Jill Oakes

Alto

Dixie D. Albro
Dionna R. Bennett
Heather Duda
Rebecca Eickhoff
Tami Hull
Jennica Musselman

Tenor

Matthew Beish
Charles Edmonds
Jason C. Luciana
Joey Morra
Jonathan Walz

Bass

Matt Barr
Fred S. Hickok
Michael J. Johnson
Trevor Loehr
Matthew J. Pavelko
David Wunder

Elijah

a dramatic oratorio, opus 70

by
Felix Mendelssohn

(Born in Hamburg- Feb. 3, 1809; Died in Leipzig- Nov. 4, 1847)

As a dramatic composer, Mendelssohn's grandest productions were his oratorios *St. Paul* and *Elijah*. Nicolas Slonimsky calls them, "unquestionably the greatest works of their kind since the time of Handel and Hadyñ."

In 1837, *St. Paul* was enthusiastically received (though it was not its premiere) at the Birmingham, England Musical Festival. In 1845, the Festival commissioned Mendelssohn to write a new oratorio. Hence, *Elijah* was born. The first performance was given in 1846 with a choir of 270 voices and an orchestra of 125 under Mendelssohn's direction. The substantially revised form of the work, as we know it today, was first given in London in 1847.

Elijah is composed in two parts; each part tells a complete story about the Hebrew prophet. In Part I (performed today), Elijah pronounces God's curse of drought. An overture suggests the lapse of time and the increasing grip of famine. The Israelites are fickle and wayward, easily swayed by miracles. The mainspring of the drama is the tension between Elijah and them. Following Elijah's return home from a three year stay in the wilderness, a trial by fire comes to pass between God and Baal (the people's false god). God shows his power, and in response to Elijah's prayer and the people's repentance, sends rain upon the land. The people then give thanks.