ELIJAH

by Felix Mendelssohn

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music director
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George Shangrow
Music Director

Present

ELIJAH

by Felix Mendelssohn
Sunday, May 23, 1993
First Presbyterian Church, Seattle

Soloists:
David Baker, Elijah
Davida Kagen, Soprano
Emily Lunde, Mezzo Soprano
Stephen Wall, Tenor
Christopher Alan Campbell, Youth

Orchestra Seattle
George Shangrow, music director
Orchestra Seattle operates on a basis of rotating seating, therefore personnel are listed alphabetically in each section

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Elijah
by Felix Mendelssohn

Debonair, graceful, and well-tempered, Mendelssohn’s personality and music gave Victorian England what they wanted. They adopted him as their favorite composer. “You have to play Mendelssohn if you wish to enjoy a success,” wrote Chopin from London. In George Merecz’s words, Mendelssohn’s music was, in the best sense, eau de cologne, “sweet smelling but not too heady.”

Mendelssohn met Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1842. They were captivated by his charm and music, and, by 1844, invited him back to lead a major music festival in Birmingham in 1846. Mendelssohn was so busy directing a music conservatory (which he founded), teaching, composing and conducting that he declined, but instead offered to compose a major oratorio for the event.

He chose the Biblical prophet Elijah for his subject matter, in part because of Elijah’s theatrical rain miracle. Mendelssohn wanted the oratorio to be dramatic. “It seems to me that the dramatic should predominate — the personages should be introduced as acting and speaking with fervor; not, in Heaven’s name, to become mere musical pictures.”

Mendelssohn had a few problems getting the work to performance. The first was the libretto. He asked Kingman, but he could not manage it. He then asked Schubring, who tried, but gave up. Mendelssohn had seven months left. He persuaded Schubring to try again, and finally the libretto was born. Mendelssohn had now so little time that he “lived the life of a marmot” to try and complete the work. He finished, and took it to England for rehearsal. His soprano of choice, Jenny Lind, was not available, so they contracted Madame Maria Carudon-Allan, who went to the doghouse. Worse, when they got to the aria “Hear ye, Israel,” she said this “was not a lady’s song,” and requested it be transposed down a step. Mendelssohn declined.

The performance was a tremendous success. Even though it was not the custom to applaud an oratorio, Mendelssohn received one of the greatest ovations of his career. Four choruses and arias had to be repeated. “No work of mine ever went so admirably...or was received with such enthusiasm.” Elijah has been called “Mendelssohn’s chef d’oeuvre” and the “greatest oratorio of the nineteenth century.”

The oratorio begins, unusually, before the overture. Usually the overture opens and frames a work, setting out appropriate themes or providing the right mood. But Mendelssohn, with dramatic genius, put a recitative first, making the ensuing overture a part of the unfolding story. In the recitative, Elijah prophesies a drought over Israel because the people have been unfaithful to God, worshipping Baal instead. That sinister interval, the diminished fifth, is used as a kind of curse motif. The overture then takes up this sense of doom, building with fugal furor to the opening chorus: “Hail, Lord.”

There follows a short recitative of pathos and a duet, lyrical but haunting, due to the chorus’ reiteration of the four opening words to the same musical phrase on different degrees of the scale. Obadiah sings a lugubriously Israeli aria, and the chorus “Yet doth the Lord” is powerful and dramatic. In this chorus the sinister diminished fifths return, introducing the words, “His curse hath fallen upon us.”

In the next section Elijah is sent to bring to life a widow’s son. This miracle is begun by a lovely double quartet of angels, and then proceeds much like an opera, with a conversation between the two main characters. It ends with the chorus “Blessed are they,” which shines with Mendelssohn’s orchestral skill, as he weaves contrapuntal lines over a murmuring background.

Three years pass in the story, and Elijah now prophesies an end to the drought. He challenges the priests of Baal to call on their god. They do, but there is no answer. Elijah mocks them, “call him louder.” A musical silence tells all. The prophets of Baal then bleach, as much glorious music is heard, notably Elijah’s aria, “is not His word a fire.” Elijah then calls on the Lord to bring rain, and Part One ends in precipitation and glory. The coming of the rain is not immediate, though, as Elijah and the prophets of Baal called but could not hear their god, here too Elijah prays but, at first, nothing happens. More prayers ensue, and Elijah is rewarded.

In Part Two, Elijah’s enemies call for his execution. It begins with an aria in B minor, making a reference to Bach’s St. Matthew Passion. Elijah seems to give in to his enemies in a beautiful aria of resignation, “It is right.” Angels respond with a famous trio, “Lift thine eyes,” which is followed by a famous chorus, “He, watching over Israel.” The chorus is moving and not sentimental, and shows Mendelssohn’s part-writing skill at its peak.

The oratorio then builds to high drama, as the Lord “passes by” Elijah with much wind, earthquake and fire. God then speaks to Elijah in a “still, small voice,” and Elijah is encouraged to continue his prophetic life. In the end, he carries up into heaven in a “fiery chariot with fiery horses.” In the final chorus, as the amens begin, the sinister diminished fifths are recalled, thus enclosing them within the peace of God.

notes by Huntley Beyer

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George Shangrow, music director

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Text Translation

Part I

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. [1 Kings 17:1]

Overture
No. 1 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! [Jeremiah 8:20] Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion? [Jer. 8:19]

Recitative Chorus
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]

No 2 Duet and Chorus
The People
Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer. [Psalms 86:1,6]

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

No 3 Recitative
Obadiah
Ye people, rend your hearts and not your garments for your transgressions; even as Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to ye, Forsake your idols, return to God: for He is thine anger, and merciful, and kind and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil. [Joel 2:12,13]

No 4 Aria
Obadiah
If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me. Thus saith our God. [Deuteronomy 4:29;Jer. 20:14]

Ohi that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before his presence. [Job 23:8]

No 5 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. [Dt. 26:16; 28:22]

For He, the Lord our God, He is a jealous God; and He visiteth all the fathers’ sins upon 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. [Exodus 20:5,6]

No 6 Recitative
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 Kings 17:3,6]

No 7 Double Quartet
Angels
For He shall give His angels charge over thee; that they shall bear 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]

Recitative
An Angel
Now Cherith’s brook is dried up, Elijah; arise and depart; and get thee to Zaraphath: 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 Kings 17:7,9,14]

No 8 Recitative and Aria
The Widow
What have I to do with thee, O man of God? art thou come to me, to call again unto remembrance? — to play my son art thou come hither? [1 Kings 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 Kings 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]

Recitative
Elijah
Give me thy son. [Kings 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 Kings 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.

Soloists

David Baker — Elijah
Since his debut with Bernard Klebel and members of the Vienna Symphony at the Bach Festival outside Vienna, David Baker has performed in many opera, musical theater and oratorio roles. He has appeared as Ford, in Verdi’s Falstaff; Sid, in Britten’s Albert Herring; Bob in Mendelsohn’s The Old Maid and the Thief; and Noye in Britten’s Noye’s Fludde. He has performed as soloist on several occasions with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under the conductorship of Robert Shaw, Eric Kunzel and Thomas Schippers. His oratorio roles include many Bach cantatas, Brahms’s A German Requiem, Handel’s Messiah, Haydn’s The Creation, Mendelssohn’s Elijah and St. Paul; Schubert’s Mass in G; Vaughan Williams’s Pilgrim’s Journey; among many others.

Mr. Baker has earned degrees from Seattle Pacific University, the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and received additional training with the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. He has been a winner of the Seattle Music Teachers’ Auditions and of the PONCHO award for operatic study.

His most recent appearances include an East Coast concert tour this past November and in December he sang with Emily Lunds in Amahl and the Night Visitors by Menotti.

Davida Kagen — Soprano
Davida Kagen, keeps a busy schedule of solo, concert, and opera performances in Seattle, and throughout the United States.

In the past two years she has appeared with Orchestra Seattle in Bach’s Christmas Oratorio and Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis, under the baton of George Shangraw; with Joseph Scott’s Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, Orff’s Carmina Burana, Opera Arias and Mahler’s 4th Symphony; and with the Seattle Chorale under Fred Colman in Carmina Burana, Brahms’s German Requiem, and a "Die Fledermaus Operetta Gala."

No 37 Ariosa
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. [Isa. 54:10]

No 38 Chorus
Then did Elijah the prophet break forth like a fire; his words appeared like burning torches. [Exodus 48:1] Mighty kings by him were overthrown. [Exodus 48:6] He stood on the mount of Sinai, and heard the judgements of the future; and in Horeb, his vengeance. [Exodus 48:7] And when the Lord would take him away to heaven, [2 Kings 2:1] lol there came a fiery chariot, with fiery horses; and he went by a whirlwind to heaven. [2 Kings 2:11]

No 39 Aria
Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father’s realm. [Mt. 13:43] Joy on their head shall be for everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall fly away for ever. [Isa. 51:11]

No 40 Recitative
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 come and smite the earth with a curse. [Malachi 4:5,6]

No 41 Chorus
But the Lord, from the north hath raised one who from the rising of the sun shall call upon His name and come on princes. [Isa. 41:26]

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]

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

No 43 Chorus
And then shall your light break forth as the light of morning breaks; and your health shall speedily spring forth then; and the glory of the Lord ever shall reward you. [Isa. 66:8]

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

Amen


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Amen

No 27 Recitative
See, now he sleepe eth 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]

No 28 Trio
The Angels
Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence comest 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]

No 29 Chorus
The Angels
He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps. [Ps. 121:4] Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish; He will quicken thee. [Ps. 139:7]

No 30 Recitative
An Angel
Aris, 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; yes, 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 darkened their hearts that they do not fear Thee? [Isa. 63:17] O that I now might die! [1 Kgs. 19:4]

No 31 Aria
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 evildoers. [Ps. 37:1]

No 32 Chorus
He shall endure to the end, shall be saved. [Matthew 24:13]

No 33 Recitative
Elijah
Night falleth round me. O Lord! Be not Thou 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. 143:7,8]
The Angel
Aris 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.

No 34 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. [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.

No 35 Recitative and Chorus
Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another: [Isa. 6:2,5]
Seraphim
Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord—The Lord Sabaoth! Now His glory hath filled all the earth. [Isa. 6:3]

No 36 Recitative and Chorus
Go, return upon thy way! [1 Kgs. 19:15] For the Lord hath yet left Him seven thousand in Israel, knees which have not bowed to Baal. [1 Kgs. 19:18] go, return upon thy way, thus the Lord commanded.
Recitative
Elijah
I go on my way in the strength of the Lord. [Ps. 71:16] For Thou art my Lord; and I will suffer for Thy sake. [Ps. 16:2] My heart is therefore glad, my glory rejoiceth, and my flesh shall also rest in hope. [Ps. 16:9]

The Widow
The Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul of my son revived! [1 Kgs. 17:23]
Elijah
Now Behold, thy son liveth! [1 Kgs. 17:22]
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 do, Lord, for the widow, for all his benefits to me? [Ps. 116:12]
Bath
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might [Deut. 6:5] O blessed are they who fear Him! [Ps. 128:1]

No 9 Chorus
Blessed are the men who fear Him: they ever walk in the ways of peace. Through darkness rejoin light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate; He is righteous. [Ps. 112:1,4]

No 10 Recitative and Chorus
Elijah
As 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 upon the earth. [1 Kgs. 18:15,1]
Ahab
Art thou Elijah? he that troubleth Israel! [1 Kgs. 18:17]
The People
Thou art Elijah? he that troubleth Israel! [Elijah]

No 11 Chorus
Prophets 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]
Heard, mighty god! Baal, O answer us! Let thy flames fall and extinguish the fire! O hear us, Baal!

No 12 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. [1 Kgs. 18:27]
Chorus
Prophets of Baal
Hear our cry, O Baal! now arise! wherewith shall we slumber?

No 13 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. [Kgs. 18:28,26,29]
Chorus
Prophets of Baal
Hear and answer! Baal! Mark how the sooner derideth us! Hear and answer!
Recitative
Elijah
Draw near, all ye people: come to me! [1 Kgs. 18:30]

No 14 Aria
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]

No 15 Quartet
Angels
Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He never will suffer the righteous to fall: [Ps. 55:22] He is at thy right hands. [Ps. 16:8]
Thy mercy, Lord, is great; and far above the heavens. [Ps. 103:4] Let none be made ashamed that wait upon Thee! [Ps. 25:3]

No 16 Recitative
Elijah
O Thou, who makest Thine angels spirits—Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires; [Ps. 104:4] 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: [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]

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. [1 Kgs. 18:40]

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

No 17 Aria
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 make it ready. [Ps. 7:11,12]

No 18 Arioso
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]

No 19 Recitative and Chorus
O CADISH
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 toward 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 unto 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 He is gracious, and His mercy endureth for evermore! [Ps. 106:1]

No 20 Chorus
The People
Thanks be to God! He layeth 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]

INTERMISSION
Part II

No 21 Aria
Hear ye, Israel: hear what the Lord speaketh:—“Oh hadst thou heeded my commandments!” [Isaiah 48:7]
Who hath believed our report; to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? [Isa. 53:1]
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.

No 22 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!" [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]

No 23 Recitative and Chorus
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 Jeroboam. Thou hast made a grove and an altar to Baal, and served him and worshipped him. [Kgs. 16:31,32,33] Thou hast 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. [Kgs. 14:15,16]
The Queen
Have ye not heard he hath prophesied against all Israel?
The People
We heard it with our ears. [Jer. 26:11]
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 his 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 People
He shall perish!
The Queen
Hath he not destroyed Baal’s prophets?

The People
He shall perish!
The Queen
Yea, by the sword he destroyed them all!
The People
He destroyed them all!
The Queen
He also closed the heavens! [Ecclesiasticus 48:3]
The People
He also closed the heavens!
The Queen
And called down a famine upon the land. [Ecclus. 48:2]
The People
And called down famine upon the land.
The Queen
So go ye forth and seize Elijah, for his is worthy to die; [Jer. 26:11] slaughter him! do unto him as he hath done!

No 24 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. [Jer. 26:11]
So go ye forth; seize on him! He shall die!

No 25 Recitative
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 father 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]

No 26 Aria
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]
No 27 Recitative
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]

No 28 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. [Ps. 121:1,2,3]

No 29 Chorus
The Angels
He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps. [Ps. 121:4] Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish; He will quicken thee. [Ps. 139:7]

No 30 Recitative
An Angel
Arise, Elijah, for thou hast a long journey before thee. Forty days and forty nights shalt thou go, to Horseb, the mount of God. [1 Kgs. 19:7-8]
Elijah
O Lord, I have laboured in vain; yes, 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 darkened their hearts that they do not fear Thee? [Isa. 63:17] O that I now might die! [1 Kgs. 19:4]

No 31 Aria
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 fear not thyself because of evildoers. [Ps. 37:1]

No 32 Chorus
He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved. [Matthew 24:13]

No 33 Recitative
Elijah
Night falleth round me. O Lord! Be not Thou 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. 143:7,8]
The 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.

No 34 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. [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]
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.

No 35 Recitative and Chorus
Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another: [Isa. 6:2,5]
Seraphim
Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord—The Lord Sabaoth! Now His glory hath filled all the earth. [Isa. 6:3]

No 36 Recitative and Chorus
Go, return upon thy way! [1 Kgs. 19:15] For the Lord hath yet left Him seven thousand in Israel, knees which have not bowed to Baal. [1 Kgs. 19:18] go, return upon thy way: thus the Lord commandeth.
Recitative
Elijah
I go on my way in the strength of the Lord. [Ps. 71:16]
For Thou art my Lord; and I will suffer for Thy sake. [Ps. 16:2] My heart is therefore glad, my glory rejoiceth, and my flesh shall also rest in hope. [Ps. 16:9]

The Widow
The Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul of my son reviveth! [1 Kgs. 17:23]
Elijah
Now Behold, thy son liveth! [1 Kgs. 17:22]
The Widow
Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that His word in thine mouth is the truth. [1 Kgs. 17:24] What shall I do further toward the Lord, for all his benefits to me? [Ps. 116:12]
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]

No 9 Chorus
Blessed are the men who fear Him: they ever walk in the ways of peace. Through darkness saith light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate; He is righteous. [Ps. 112:1,4]

No 10 Recitative and Chorus
Elijah
As 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 troublmeth Israel? [1 Kgs. 18:17]
The People
Thou art Elijah, he that troublmeth Israel? [1 Kgs. 18:17]
Elijah
I never troubled Israel's peace: it is thou Ahab, and all thy father's house. Ye have forsaken God's commandment, 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 seated at Jezebel's table. Then we shall see whose God is God the Lord. [1 Kgs. 18:19,21]
The People
And then we shall see whose God is 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. 18:23,29]
The People
Yes: and the God who by fire shall answer, let him be God.

No 11 Chorus
Prophets 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, mightly god! Baal, O answer us! Let thy flames fall and extinguish the foe! O hear us, Baal!

No 12 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. [1 Kgs. 18:27]
Chorus
Prophets of Baal
Hear our cry, O Baal: now arise! Wherefore slumber?

No 13 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. [Kgs. 18:28,26,29]
Chorus
Prophets of Baal
Hear and answer, Baal! Mark how the scourner derideth us! Hear and answer!
Recitative
Elijah
Draw near, all ye people: come to me! [1 Kgs. 18:30]

No 14 Aria
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]

No 15 Quartet
Angels
Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He never will suffer the righteous to fall: [Ps. 55:22] He is at thy right hands. [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]

No 16 Recitative
Elijah
O Thou, who makest Thine angels spirits:—Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires; [Ps. 104:4] let them now descend!
No 37 Ariel
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. [Isa. 54:10]

No 38 Chorus
Then did Elijah the prophet break forth like a fire, his words appeared like burning torches. [Eccles. 48:1] Mighty kings by him were overthrown. [Eccles. 48:6] He stood on the mount of Sinai, and heard the judgments of the future; and in Horeb, his vengeance. [Eccles. 48:7] And when the Lord would take him away to heaven. [2 Kgs. 2:1] lol there came a fiery chariot, with fiery horses; and he went by a whirlwind to heaven. [2 Kgs. 2:11]

No 39 Aria
Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father’s realm. [Mt. 13:43] joy on their head shall be for everlastings, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away for ever. [Isa. 51:11]

No 40 Recitative
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 come and smite the earth with a curse. [Malachi 4:5,6]

Soloists
David Baker – Elijah
Since his debut with Bernhard Klebel and members of the Vienna Symphony at the Bach Festival outside Vienna, David Baker has performed in many opera, musical theater and oratorio roles. He has appeared as Ford, in Verdi’s Falstaff; Sid, in Britten’s Albert Herring; Bob in Menotti’s The Old Maid and the Thief; and Noye in Britten’s Noye’s Fludde. He has performed as soloist on several occasions with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under the conductorship of Robert Shaw, Eric Kunzel and Thomas Schippers. His oratorio roles include many Bach cantatas, Brahms’s A German Requiem, Handel’s Messiah, Haydn’s The Creation, Mendelssohn’s Elijah and St. Paul; Schubert’s Mass in G; Vaughan Williams’s Pilgrim’s Journey; among many others.

Mr. Baker has earned degrees from Seattle Pacific University, the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and received additional training with the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. He has been a winner of the Seattle Music Teachers’ Auditions and of the PONCHO award for operatic study.

His most recent appearances include an East Coast concert tour this past November and in December he sang with Emily Lunds in Amahl and the Night Visitors by Menotti.

David Kagen – Soprano
David Kagen, keeps a busy schedule of solo, concert, and opera performances in Seattle, and throughout the United States.

In the past two years she has appeared with Orchestra Seattle in Bach’s Christmas Oratorio and Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis, under the baton of George Shangraw; with Joseph Scott’s Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, Orff’s Carmina Burana, Opera Arias and Mahler’s 4th Symphony; and with the Seattle Chorale under Fred Colman in Carmina Burana, Brahms’s German Requiem, and a “Die Fledermaus Operetta Gala.” Ms.
Kagen will be heard in Mozart's C minor Mass on June 4th and 6th with the Seattle Chorale Company. Across the county, Ms. Kagen has recently appeared as Gilda in Greater Buffalo Opera's production of Rigoletto and Oscar in A Masked Ball with the Youngstown Symphony, both under the baton of David Effron. Ms. Kagen's international engagements include Samuel Barber's Knoxville: Summer of 1915 with the Eastman Philharmonia under David Effron, and Joel Fried; and Miss Wordsworth in Britten's Albert Herring, both in Heidelberg, Germany.

Ms. Kagen is in Part as an active teaching schedule, working with some of Seattle's brightest young and upcoming singing talents.

Emily Lunde – Mezzo Soprano

Northwest Native Emily Lunde made her solo debut with Orchestra Seattle/Seattle Chamber Singers in their 1999 presentation of Bach's B minor Mass. Ms. Lunde makes frequent solo appearances with many other Northwest ensembles: she has soloed in Seattle Symphony’s Baroque series under the baton of Gerard Schwartz, was the featured soloist with City Cantabile Singers in the world premiere of Fred West’s oratorio in celebration of Earth Day, Upon this Land, and was heard in the Pacific Northwest Ballet production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Emily’s solo appearances with the New Whatcom Choral Society of Bellingham include Handel's Messiah and the Dronik Mass in D.

Stephen Wall – Tenor

Stephen P. Wall has appeared many times with the Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers. He was the tenor soloist in last fall’s performance of Missa Solemnis by Beethoven, Beethoven’s Symphony #9 as well as appearing in the title role in The Return of Ulysse. His credits with Seattle Opera include roles in Tannhauser, Die Meistersinger and War and Peace. Mr. Wall has been a featured soloist with the Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver (B.C.) and Sapporo (Japan) Symphonies. He currently is Professor of Voice at PLU and Seattle Community College, and created the role of Vladimir in Carol Sams’ latest opera, Heaven.

Christopher Alan Campbell

Christopher Campbell is a member of the Columbia Boys Choir, under the directorship of Steve Stevens. He recently performed in the Seattle Opera production of Pelleas and Melisande and with the Northwest Chamber Orchestra in A Ceremony of Carols by Britten.

Seattle Chamber Singers

George Shangrow, music director

Soprano

Susan Cobb
Crissa Cugini
Mildred Culp
Kyla DeRemer
Dana Durscuff
Christina Fairweather
Catherine Haight
Kathy Hanson
Med Harrison
Julia Jaundalderis
Jill Kraakmo
Alexandra Mileta
Jennifer Mileta
Penelope Nichols
Paula Rimmer
Meryl Seely
Pamela Stemper
Barbara Stephens
Mina Lee Thomas
Liesel Van Cleave

Alto

Lila Adams
Sharon Agnew
Margaret Atsup
Kay Benningfield
Luna Blitzer
Jane Blackwell
Korcaigh Hale
Mary Beth Hughes
Jane Lund
Suzanne Means
Laurie Medill
Ann Melzer
Janet Ellen Reed
Nancy Robinson
Nancy Shasteen
Nedra Sloan
Vicki Thomas
Margaret Wright

Tenor

David Adams
Ralph Cobb
Ron Haigh
Tom Nestibett
Tim Prior
Paul Rhonbe
Ed Winkey

Bass

DeWayne Christenson
Douglas Durscuff
Tim Goto
Mitsnori Kawase
Jim MacMorn
Philip Rohrbough
Skip Satterwhite
Robert Schuperoort
Jessie Stem
Richard Wykoff

Elijah

by Felix Mendelssohn

Debonair, graceful, and well-tempered, Mendelssohn's personality and music gave Victorian England what they wanted. They adopted him as their favorite composer. "You have to play Mendelssohn if you wish to enjoy a success," wrote Chopin from London. "Help, Lord. There follows a short recitative of pathos and a duet, lyrical but haunting, due to the chorus' reiteration of the four opening words to the same musical phrase on different degrees of the scale. Obadiah sings a luxuriant Italian aria, and the chorus "Yet doth the Lord" is powerful and dramatic. In this chorus the sinister diminished fifths return, introducing the words, "His curse hath fallen down upon us."

In the next section Elijah is sent to bring to life a widow's son. This miracle is begun by a lovely double quartet of angels, and then proceeds much like an opera, with a conversation between the two main characters. It ends with the chorus "Blessed are they," which shines with Mendelssohn's orchestral skill, as he weaves contrapuntal lines over a murmuring background.

Three years pass in the story, and Elijah now prophesies an end to the drought. He challenges the priests of Baal to call on their god. They do, but there is no answer. Elijah mocks them, "call him louder." A musical silence tells all. The prophets of Baal then steal, as much glorious music is heard, notably Elijah's aria, "Is not His word like a fire." Elijah then calls on the Lord to bring rain, and Part One ends in precipitation and glory. The coming of the rain is not immediate, though, as a series of prophesies of Baal called but could not hear their god, here too Elijah prays but, at first, nothing happens. More prayers ensue, and Elijah is rewarded.

In the Two, Elijah's enemies call for his execution. It begins with an aria in B minor, making a reference to Bach's St. Matthew Passion. Elijah seems to give in to his enemies in a beautiful aria of resignation, "It is my will." Angels respond with a famous trio, "Lift thine eyes," which is followed by a famous chorus, "He, watching over Israel." The chorus is moving and not sentimental, and shows Mendelssohn's part-writing skill at its peak.

The oratorio then builds to high drama, as the Lord "passes by" Elijah with much wind, earthquake and fire. God then speaks to Elijah in a "still, small voice," and Elijah is encouraged to continue his prophetic life. In the end, he is carried up to heaven in a "flaky chariot with fiery horses." In the final chorus, as the amens begin, the sinister diminished fifths are recalled, thus enclosing them within the peace of God.
Orchestra Seattle
Seattle Chamber Singers
George Shangrow
Music Director

Present

ELIJAH

by Felix Mendelssohn
Sunday, May 23, 1993
First Presbyterian Church, Seattle

Soloists:
David Baker, Elijah
Davia Kagen, Soprano
Emily Lunde, Mezzo Soprano
Stephen Wall, Tenor
Christopher Alan Campbell, Youth

Orchestra Seattle
George Shangrow, music director
Orchestra Seattle operates on a basis of rotating seating, therefore personnel are listed alphabetically in each section

Violin
Susan Abrams
Carlos A. Flores, guest concert master
Jenny Hermanson
Sue Herring
Allen Kastelle
Elizabeth Kim
Pam Kummert
Pam Machledt
Avron Maldeky
Sandra Schlink
Janet Showalter, principal 2nd
Rebecca Soukup
Mymie Van Kempen

Cello
Evelyn Albrecht
Rosemary Berner
Julie Reed
Valerie Ross
Maryann Taprio, principal
Matthew Wyant

Bass
Allan Goldman, principal
Josephine Hansen

Flute
Kate Alverson, principal
Kirsten James McNamara

Oboe
Huntley Beyer
M. Shannon Hill, principal

Clarinet
Susan Deja
Gary Oates, principal

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ELIJAH
by Felix Mendelssohn
George Shangrow
music director