



**Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir**

Nov 2, 2022
8:00pm
Roy Thomson Hall

MENDELSSOHN
ELIJAH





**Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir**

Jean-Sébastien Vallée
Artistic Director

MENDELSSOHN ELIJAH

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor

Russell Braun, baritone

Lesley Emma Bouza, soprano

Lindsay McIntyre, soprano

Emily Parker, soprano

Julia Barber, mezzo-soprano

Rebecca Claborn, mezzo-soprano

Kirsten Fielding, mezzo-soprano

Jessica Wright, mezzo-soprano

Jacob Abrahamse, tenor

Marcel d'Entremont, tenor

Nicholas Nicolaidis, tenor

Neil Aronoff, bass

Kieran Kane, bass

Christina Baksay, soprano
(from *Toronto Children's Chorus*)

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

**University of Toronto's
MacMillan Singers**

Toronto Symphony Orchestra

**This performance will run approximately 140 minutes
with a 15 minute intermission**

Presented at Roy Thomson Hall

For the enjoyment of your fellow patrons and the artists on stage, please



No video
recording



No flash
photography



No noisy
candy wrappers



Mute your
cell phones

**If you enjoyed this evenings' performance, please consider
making a donation in support of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.**
tmchoir.org/donate-now

Elijah, Op. 70 – Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

Orchestration by Joachim Linckelmann

Introduction | As God the Lord of Israel liveth (*Russell Braun*)

Overture

Chorus: Help, Lord!

Duet with chorus: Lord, bow Thine ear (*Julia Barber, Lesley Emma Bouza*)

Recitative: Ye people, rend your hearts (*Marcel d'Entremont*)

Aria: If with all your hearts

Chorus: Yet doth the Lord see it not

Recitative: Elijah, get thee hence (*Rebecca Claborn*)

Double Quartet: For He shall give His angels charge over thee

(*Jacob Abrahamse, Neil Aronoff, Julia Barber, Lesley Emma Bouza, Rebecca Claborn, Kieran Kane, Lindsay McIntyre, Nicholas Nicolaidis*)

Recitative: Now Cherith's Brook is dried up (*Rebecca Claborn*)

Recitative, Aria and Duet: What have I to do with thee? (*Russell Braun, Lesley Emma Bouza*)

Chorus: Blessed are the men who fear Him

Recitative: As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth (*Russell Braun, Jacob Abrahamse*)

Chorus: Baal, we cry to thee

Recitative: Call him louder! (*Russell Braun*)

Chorus: Hear our cry, O Baal!

Recitative: Call him louder! (*Russell Braun*)

Chorus: Baal, hear and answer

Aria: Lord God of Abraham (*Russell Braun*)

Quartet: Cast thy burden upon the Lord

Recitative: O Thou, who makest thine Angels, Spirits (*Russell Braun*)

Chorus: The fire descends from heaven!

Aria: Is not his word like a fire? (*Russell Braun*)

Aria: Woe, woe unto them (*Rebecca Claborn*)

Recitative with Chorus: O man of God, help thy people

(*Russell Braun, Marcel d'Entremont, Christina Baksay*)

Chorus: Thanks be to God!

—INTERMISSION—

Aria: Hear ye, Israel! Lindsay McIntyre

Chorus: Be not afraid

Recitative with chorus: The Lord hath exalted (*Russell Braun, Julia Barber*)

Chorus: Woe to him!

Recitative: Man of God, now let my words (*Russell Braun, Marcel d'Entremont*)

Aria: It is enough (*Russell Braun*)

Recitative: See, now he sleepeth (*Jacob Abrahamse*)

Terzetto: Lift thine eyes (*Kirsten Fielding, Emily Parker, Jessica Wright*)

Chorus: He, watching over Israel

Recitative: Arise, Elijah (*Russell Braun, Rebecca Claborn*)

Aria: O rest in the Lord (*Rebecca Claborn*)

Chorus: He that shall endure to the end

Recitative: Night falleth round me (*Russell Braun, Lesley Emma Bouza*)

Chorus: Behold, God the Lord passed by!

Recitative, Quartet and Chorus: Holy, holy, holy

(*Julia Barber, Lesley Emma Bouza, Rebecca Claborn, Lindsay McIntyre*)

Chorus: Go, return upon thy way (*Russell Braun*)

Aria: For the mountains shall depart (*Russell Braun*)

Chorus: Then did Elijah

Aria: Then shall the righteous shine forth (*Marcel d'Entremont*)

Recitative and Chorus: Behold, God hath sent Elijah (*Lindsay McIntyre*)

Quartet: O come every one that thirsteth

(*Jacob Abrahamse, Neil Aronoff, Rebecca Claborn, Lindsay McIntyre*)

Chorus: And then shall your light break forth



**Toronto
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Choir**

The TMChoir acknowledges that the land on which we perform is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We are honoured to share our music across these lands.



Cherished holiday traditions
continue with your TSO!

MESSIAH

Dec 17–21

Gustavo Gimeno, conductor

Featuring the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir
and the beloved "Hallelujah Chorus"

Concerts at Roy Thomson Hall [TSO.CA/Messiah](https://www.tso.ca/Messiah)

PROGRAM NOTES

A resounding success at both its 1846 premiere in Birmingham, England, and at its revised London premiere in 1847, Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah* has remained a beloved staple of English-language choral repertoire ever since. Having experienced earlier success with his 1836 oratorio *Paulus*, which depicted the life of St. Paul, Mendelssohn was eager to next explore an Old Testament topic, and chose to focus on the life of the prophet Elijah. The oratorio's libretto, by Julius Schubring (with English translation by William Bartholomew), fuses direct Biblical quotations together with paraphrases and free text that expand upon events from numerous sections of the Old Testament, particularly the 1 and 2 Book of Kings.

Mendelssohn was deeply hesitant to publicly discuss his personal religious beliefs, yet given the centrality and influence of the prophet Elijah's story to both Jewish and Christian traditions, Mendelssohn's choice of oratorio topic seems especially fitting. The grandson of Jewish Enlightenment philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, and originally raised areligious, Felix was baptized a Protestant at the age of 7 with the rest of his siblings. While the composer practiced Christianity throughout his life, he nevertheless remained demonstrably proud of his Jewish heritage and of his grandfather's intellectual legacy. While Mendelssohn's exact beliefs and intentions surrounding his choice of topic cannot be known, it is worth noting that he took an active role in collaborating with Schubring about how Elijah's story ought to be told. He openly rejected Schubring's suggestion that the final chorus invoke Christ and the teachings of the New Testament, and frequently requested that the librettist prioritize dramatic action over excessive moments of stasis, contemplation, and moral reflection.

A keen student of music history, Mendelssohn was enamored with sacred music of the Baroque period, particularly the well-known oratorios of Handel and the sacred choral works of a then-obscure Baroque composer from Leipzig named Johann Sebastian Bach. Indeed, Mendelssohn was partly responsible for the nineteenth-century revival of German interest in Bach's work, as Mendelssohn organized and conducted an 1829 performance of the *Saint Matthew Passion* in Berlin – the first performance of the work to have occurred after Bach's death. Yet beyond mere interest, both Bach's and Handel's work in sacred choral music demonstrably influenced Mendelssohn's work on the oratorio, Bach's influence looming large in Mendelssohn's earlier *Paulus*, while the influence of Handel's choruses is heard more readily in *Elijah*.

In many ways, Mendelssohn fused tradition and innovation into his oratorios, firmly grounding his musical work in the musical lyricism and harmonic language of the Romantic Era, while also invoking the larger history of German sacred choral music. In its bringing together of tradition and innovation, *Elijah* encapsulates – in some ways, is perhaps even in some ways about – musical history and highlights of the oratorio as a genre, which may well be a factor in its enduring popularity among audiences and musicians alike.

Elijah is also a work that reflects critically on and poses challenges to the history and conventions of the oratorio. Originally sung in churches to replace operas during the Lenten season, oratorios have always balanced a thin line between the world of opera and sacred music. While *Elijah* certainly features stunning chorales and arias that provide the moments of reflection and divine contemplation the oratorio is meant to foster, the work is equally invested in – even foregrounds – dramatic action. Oratorio historian Howard E. Smither has suggested that *Elijah*, with its minimal narration, abundant musical-dramatic dialogue between characters, and prioritizing of action over stasis and moralizing, functions as the opera that Mendelssohn never got to write.

However, for all its musical and dramatic choices that suggest the stuff of opera – shouting crowds, a vengeful Queen, and a flaming chariot among them – *Elijah* is grounded in a profoundly spiritual, devotional ethos. Mendelssohn's musical characterizes Elijah, as nineteenth-century critic Otto Jahn observed, to humanize and make tangible the prophet's faith. Gone, Jahn notes, is the Old Testament "man of iron who, with unwavering courage, challenges the king...with flaming words, knowing no danger." Instead, Mendelssohn depicts the prophet as a man of piety, capable of righteous anger, yet most predominantly characterized by "firmness in his faith that God hears him when he prays to him." Mendelssohn's score takes care to embed Elijah's traits of "warm and deep feeling, of a sincere and powerful heart."* At the same time, the work as a whole, through its choruses and words, professes timeless spiritual values, stressing the worth of endurance and perseverance, the importance of hope amid despair.

In these challenging times, what a profoundly necessary story.

– **Rena Roussin**, Musicologist in Residence

The English translation of Jahn's remarks on **Elijah belongs to Susan Gillespie, and is published in **Mendelssohn and His World**.*

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir



Jean-Sébastien Vallée, Artistic Director

Named as TMC's Artistic Director in May 2021 following an international search, Maestro Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée is an internationally recognized conductor, scholar, and pedagogue. In addition to his artistic leadership of the TMChoir, he is also Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies, and Coordinator of the Ensembles & Conducting Area at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. Ensembles under his direction have toured throughout Europe and North America and Maestro Vallée's work has been broadcast internationally and can be heard on several recordings. Upcoming activities include engagements with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, l'Orchestre symphonique de Québec, and the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest.



Shireen Abu-Khader, Composer in Residence

Shireen Abu-Khader is a Palestinian Jordanian Canadian artist, composer and educator. She holds a PhD in Music Education from the University of Toronto, a Master's in Choral Music from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Oberlin College Conservatory. In 2002, Shireen founded Dozan wa Awtar Music Establishment which has been an important venture in her personal development as well as the evolution of choral music in Jordan.



Irene Gregorio, Collaborative Pianist

Pianist and chamber musician, Dr. Irene Gregorio recently returned home to Canada following a 15 year career in California where she was on the faculty of the California State University and served as pianist for the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California Chamber Singers. In Guelph, she now serves as the Director of Music Ministry at Dublin St. United Church, and Sessional Instructor of Piano at the University of Guelph.

The Choir

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir is proud to be one of Canada's oldest, largest, and best-known choral organizations. The Choir presented its first concert on January 15, 1895, as part of Massey Hall's inaugural season, and has been a leader in choral music in Canada ever since, commissioning works by Canadian composers, and presenting world and Canadian premieres. The Choir also regularly performs and records with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In May 2021 Jean-Sébastien Vallée was named as Artistic Director, only the ninth conductor in TMChoir's 128-year history. Through its performances, educational programs, and community engagement, TMChoir aspires to introduce its audiences to choral masterworks from the past and present — making both renowned and lesser-known pieces available, accessible, and inspirational to all. The TMChoir includes 24 professional singers and over 100 auditioned and experienced volunteer choristers and choral apprentices. Auditions are held in the spring and fall to welcome new members. Our smaller professional ensemble, the Toronto Mendelssohn Singers (TMSingers) was created to deliver more intimate, nimble repertoire pieces in a variety of non-traditional venues, traversing the line between concert and experience and showcasing the individual expression of professional soloists.

Featured Singers



Russell Braun, Baritone

Renowned for his luminous voice “capable of the most powerful explosions as well as the gentlest covered notes” (Toronto Star) baritone Russell Braun rightfully claims his place on the concert, opera and recital stages of the world. His intelligent and thoughtful portrayals of Chou En-lai, Billy Budd, Prince Andrei, Figaro, Papageno, Count Almaviva, Don Giovanni, Pelléas, Eugene Onegin, and The Traveller have captivated audiences at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, l’Opéra de Paris, the State Opera in Vienna, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Los Angeles Opera, La Scala in Milan, the Salzburg or the Glyndebourne Festival.



Lesley Emma Bouza, Soprano

Lesley initially completed a degree in saxophone performance, and then went on to study voice at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama before returning to Canada to become an active Toronto based musician. She delights in taking every opportunity to use her eclectic skill-set performing jazz, pop, musical theatre and classical genres.



Lindsay McIntyre, Soprano

Soprano Lindsay McIntyre has been hailed as “stunning” for her work in concert and on stage. Passionate about contemporary music, Lindsay has been featured in many recent productions with Soundstreams, including an international tour of Claude Vivier’s music, and was named 2022 winner of the Ben-Uri Shalom Graduate Recital Prize.



Emily Parker, Soprano

Soprano and conductor Emily Parker sings professionally with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, St. Clement’s Church choir, and the Toronto Festival Singers, among others. Emily is associate conductor with MSC, conducts with Young Voices Toronto, and previously worked with Etobicoke Centennial Choir and Kingsway-Lambton United Church’s Junior Choir. She holds a BMus from the University of Toronto.



Julia Barber, Mezzo-soprano

Mezzo soprano Julia Barber has been a featured soloist in choral and oratorio works with The Elora Singers, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and Mississauga Symphony Orchestra; art song with the Arts and Letters Club, Aldeburgh Discovery Series, and Bayfield Festival; and musical theatre and popular classics with Jewish Music Week.



Rebecca Claborn, Mezzo-soprano

In demand as a soloist, chorister, and teacher, mezzo-soprano Rebecca Claborn appears regularly with many of Canada's finest vocal ensembles, including the Toronto Consort, Opus 8, the Elora Singers, and the Theatre of Early Music. Upcoming engagements include the Praetorius *Christmas Vespers* with the Toronto Consort, and Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.



Kirsten Fielding, Mezzo-soprano

Mezzo soprano Kirsten Fielding has been a professional member of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir since 2010. She also appears with The Elora Singers, the Tallis Choir of Toronto, and the Ukrainian choir, Musicus Bortniansky. She has toured Canada, the US, Europe, and South Africa, and recorded Grammy nominated and Juno nominated and award-winning albums.



Jessica Wright, Mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Jessica Wright has been featured as a soloist with Tafelmusik, The Toronto Consort, Theatre of Early Music, Toronto Masque Theatre, Toronto Bach Festival and The Elora Festival. Recent highlights include performances of Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri* with the Grand Philharmonic Choir, Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shephard* with The Elora Singers, and Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles* with the Toronto Mendelssohn Singers.



Jacob Abrahamse, Tenor

Jacob Abrahamse, B.Mus., M.A., has performed leading roles in *Miracle Flight 571*; *Shot: The Story of D'Arcy McGee*; *H.M.S. Pinafore*; *Ruddigore*; *The Pirates of Penzance*; *Apollo et Hyacinthus*; *The Children's Crusade*; and *Il Giudizone di Pigmalione*. He has performed at Moses Znaimer's Idea City and has won two civic awards from the City of Peterborough.



Marcel d'Entremont, Tenor

Tenor Marcel d'Entremont is a former winner of the Wirth Vocal Prize at McGill University and the National Music Festival of Canada. He is a current Equilibrium Young Artist, a mentorship program run by soprano Barbara Hannigan, and was named one of the Top 30 Under 30 classical musicians in Canada by CBC Music.



Nicholas Nicolaidis, Tenor

Nicholas Nicolaidis is an accomplished chorister, soloist, conductor and vocal pedagogue. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Nicholas began his vocal studies at the world famous Drakensberg Boys' Choir School, has a BMus Degree from Wits University, studied singing in London, UK, and conducting in Stellenbosch. He specializes in oratorio, lieder and jazz standards.



Neil Aronoff, Bass

Montreal-born baritone, Neil Aronoff, is a graduate of McGill and active performer in choral ensembles in Toronto. In addition to the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, he performs regularly with Soundstreams Choir 21, enjoying bringing both choral masterpieces and challenging, contemporary works to the stage.



Kieran Kane, Bass

Kieran has sung with a number of ensembles across Canada including Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, The Elora Singers, and The Canadian Chamber Choir. Solo projects include Masetto in *Don Giovanni* and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has also worked as music director on productions including *The Gondoliers* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

MacMillan Singers

The MacMillan Singers at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music were named to celebrate the legacy of Sir Ernest MacMillan, an inspired performer and devoted teacher who greatly influenced Canada's musical life in the twentieth century. MacMillan was the Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra from 1931–1956 and conductor of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir from 1942–1957. MacMillan Singers, comprised of undergraduate voice students and master's and doctoral students in Choral Conducting, make an impact in Toronto's music scene and beyond by studying and performing a diverse repertoire of music for voices – from Renaissance to music of living composers from around the globe. Alumni of MacMillan Singers hold important positions in Canada and abroad as singers, conductors, composers, and teachers. Since its founding in 1994, the choir has been directed by Dr. Doreen Rao, Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, David Fallis, and Dr. Jamie Hillman.

Jamie Hillman

Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting and Director of Choral Studies, University of Toronto; Associate Conductor and Director of Community Engagement, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir .



Jamie Hillman is a Canadian and American musician, active as a conductor, singer, pianist, music educator, and composer. He holds the endowed Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting at the University of Toronto where he is also Director of Choral Studies and an Associate Professor.

He conducts the MacMillan Singers and leads the master's and doctoral programs in Choral Conducting. As a Boston University Prison Arts Scholar and faculty member of BU's Prison Education Program, Hillman co-initiated an innovative vocal music program in the Massachusetts prison system. He joined TMChoir this Fall as Director of Community Engagement and Associate Conductor.

Toronto Symphony Orchestra

One of Canada's most respected arts organizations, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) plays a vital role in the city's dynamic cultural life.

Committed to serving local and national communities through vibrant performances and expansive educational activities, the TSO offers a wide range of programming that resonates with people of all ages and backgrounds. With a notable recording and broadcast history complementing international touring engagements, the TSO is a unique musical ambassador for Canada around the world.

The TSO continues its long-established history of connecting younger generations with orchestral music. Two core programs include School Concerts, performed for over 40,000 students annually, and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra (TSYO), which, in a tuition-free model, offers high-level orchestral training for talented young musicians aged 22 and under. Additionally, the TSO supports the development of next-generation artists through its annual open call for Canadian orchestral scores, and its essential Resident Conductor and Affiliate Composer positions.

Gustavo Gimeno begins his role as the TSO's Music Director in the 2020/21 season, the Orchestra's 99th. With this appointment, Maestro Gimeno becomes the Orchestra's 10th Music Director.

Critically acclaimed for his ability to elicit fresh and vibrant performances, Maestro Gimeno has conducted leading orchestras in Europe, North America, and Japan. He also serves as Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg.

The TSO was founded in 1922 by a group of Toronto musicians and gave its first performance at the historic Massey Hall. Since 1982, Toronto's iconic Roy Thomson Hall has been the TSO's home, drawing patrons from around the world. Soon to celebrate its centenary, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's name remains synonymous with musical versatility and growth, and artistic distinction.

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Soprano

Catherine Alberti
 Ann-Marie Barrett-Tandy
 Jocelyn Belfer
 Lesley Emma Bouza *
 Louise Boyden
 Leslie Bradshaw
 Marlo Burks
 Hannah Carty
 Amy Chen
 Laureen Choi
 Arushi Das
 Emily Dotzlaw
 Janet Eide
 Kim Finkelstein
 Louise Zacharias Friesen
 Marina Galeano
 Rebecca Genge *
 Pat M. Irwin
 Nikan Kanate
 Alysha Ladha
 Jisue Lee
 Claire Luc
 Marlene Lynds
 Teresa Mahon *
 Sachiko Marshall
 Lindsay McIntyre *
 Camila Mussa
 Emily Parker *
 Ariane Prescott
 Olivia Pryce-Digby
 Mary Ridgley
 Heather Rowe
 Roxana Samson
 Alessia Signorella
 Jaclyn Siou
 Chong Tan
 Joanne Tang
 Jennie Worden
 Sophia Yumakulov

Alto

Marlo Alcock
 Julia Barber *
 Frances Chan
 Rebecca Claborn*
 Nina Coutinho
 Kristin Crawford
 Avis Devine
 Adrienne Eastwood
 Kirsten Fielding *
 Ruxandra Filip
 Manda Fischer
 Gillian Grant
 Ilone Harrison
 Marilyn Isaac Stewart
 Sue Kim
 Alison Massam
 Hilary McCrimmon
 Heather McGrath
 Jennifer McGraw
 Bethany Jo Mikelait
 Annie Odom
 Parnian Parvin
 Pamela Psarianos
 Alison Roy *
 Yara Rubb
 Jan Szot
 Jennifer Ujimoto
 Patti Vipond
 Emma Willemsma
 Tarquin Wongkee
 Susan Worthington
 Jessic Wright *
 Virginia Wright
 YuYang Wu
 Mitzi Wolfe Zohar

Tenor

Jacob Abrahamse *
 Mitch Aldrich *
 Rafael Avila
 Sam Broverman
 Thomas Burton *
 Karel Cantelar Ramos
 Michael Clipperton
 Peter DeRoche
 Marcel d'Entremont *
 Omar Flores
 John Gladwell
 Alejandro Guerrero
 Valdis Jevtejevs *
 Clement Kam
 Francis Lam
 Eric Lee
 Walter Mahabir *
 Christian Matta
 Timothy McPhail
 Daniel Meeks
 Kevin Myers *
 Nicholas Nicolaidis *
 Neil Payne
 Christopher Wenman

Bass

Neil Aronoff *
 Jeffrey Baker
 Dan Bevan-Baker *
 Matthew Conte
 Scott Crocker
 Steven Foster
 Ronald Jewell
 Kieran Kane *
 John Lemke
 Kai Leung *
 Matt Lozinski
 Joseph McGowan IV
 Magnus Mee
 Paul Oros *
 David Peer
 Seymour Stern
 Chia-An (Victor) Tung
 Sean van Wyk
 Jonah Wall
 Eric Yang
 Isaiah Yankech
 David Yung *
 Bruce Yungblut

*TMSingers

University of Toronto MacMillan Singers

Dr. Jamie Hillman, Conductor

Michael Denomme, Assistant Conductor

Joy Lee, Collaborative Pianist

Soprano

Aislinn Brown
Rachel Currie
Arushi Das
Charlotte Goss
Kathy Haddadkar
Manishya Jayasundera
Kate Medcalf
Maren Richardson
Alessia Signorella
Hermione Tankard

Alto

Ainsley deBoer
Francesca Hauser
Sarah Luedke
Sarah Mole
Théa Nappert
Claudia Rando
Elisabeth Ritthaler
Ania Suri
Dorothea Unwin
Anika Venkatesh
Tarquin Wongkee

Tenor

Max Webb Comor
Gabriel Gough
Nathan Gritter
Luca McCauley
Leon Page
Sehyeok (Joseph) Park
Alekszander Rosolowski
Eyal Stopnicki-Udokang
Tyrese Walters

Bass

Michael Denomme
Joshua Gibson
Ian Gillis
Owen Phillipson
Arthur Podpora
Giovanni Rabbito
Charlie Sadler
Simon Vandenberg
Ryan Paul Wong
Eric Yang

Toronto Symphony Orchestra

Gustavo Gimeno, Music Director

Violins

Jonathan Crow
CONCERTMASTER
Tom Beck Concertmaster Chair

Mark Skazinetzky
ASSOCIATE CONCERTMASTER

Marc-André Savoie
ASSISTANT CONCERTMASTER

Etsuko Kimura +
ASSISTANT CONCERTMASTER

Eri Kosaka
ACTING PRINCIPAL,
SECOND VIOLIN

Wendy Rose
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL,
SECOND VIOLIN

Atis Bankas

Yolanda Bruno

Sydney Chun*

Carol Lynn Fujino

Amanda Goodburn

Bridget Hunt

Amalia Joanou Canzoneri

Shane Kim*

Leslie Dawn Knowles

Douglas Kwon

Luri Lee

Paul Meyer

Sergei Nikonov

Semyon Pertsovsky

Clare Semes

Peter Seminovs

Jennifer Thompson

Angelique Toews

James Wallenberg

Virginia Chen Wells

Violas

Michael Casimir
PRINCIPAL

Rémi Pelletier
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Theresa Rudolph
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Ivan Ivanovich

Gary Labovitz

Diane Leung

Charmain Louis

Mary Carol Nugent

Christopher Redfield

Ashley Vandiver

Cellos

Joseph Johnson
PRINCIPAL
Principal Cello Chair supported
by Dr. Armand Hammer

Emmanuelle Beaulieu Bergeron
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Winona Zelenka
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Alastair Eng*

Igor Gefter

Roberta Janzen

Songhee Lee

Oleksander Mycyk

Lucia Ticho

Double Basses

Jeffrey Beecher
PRINCIPAL

Michael Chiarello
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Theodore Chan

Timothy Dawson

Chas Elliott

David Longenecker*

Flutes

Kelly Zimba Lukić
PRINCIPAL
Toronto Symphony Volunteer
Committee Principal Flute Chair

Julie Ranti
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Leonie Wall

Camille Watts

Piccolo

Camille Watts

Oboes

Sarah Jeffrey*
PRINCIPAL

Alex Liedtke
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Cary Ebli

Hugo Lee*

English Horn

Cary Ebli

Clarinets

Eric Abramovitz
PRINCIPAL

Sheryl L. and David W. Kerr
PRINCIPAL CLARINET CHAIR

Miles Jaques
ACTING ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Joseph Orlowski

Bass Clarinet

Miles Jaques

Toronto Symphony Orchestra (continued)

Bassoons

Michael Sweeney
PRINCIPAL

Darren Hicks +
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Samuel Banks
Fraser Jackson

Contrabassoon

Fraser Jackson

Horns

Neil Deland
PRINCIPAL

Christopher Gongos
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Audrey Good
Nicholas Hartman
Gabriel Radford*

Trumpets

Andrew McCandless
PRINCIPAL
Toronto Symphony Volunteer
Committee Principal Trumpet Chair

Steven Woomert*
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

James Gardiner*
James Spragg

Trombones

Gordon Wolfe
PRINCIPAL

Vanessa Fralick*
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Bass Trombone

Jeffrey Hall +

Tuba

Mark Tetreault
PRINCIPAL

Timpani

David Kent
PRINCIPAL
Joseph Kelly
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Percussion

Charles Settle
PRINCIPAL

Joseph Kelly
John Rudolph

Harp

Heidi Elise Bearcroft
PRINCIPAL

Additional Performers

Jonathan Oldengarm, organ

Librarians

Christopher Reiche Boucher
PRINCIPAL

Andrew Harper
SUBSTITUTE LIBRARIAN

Sandra Pearson
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Personnel Manager

David Kent

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TSYO Conductor generously supported by the
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Gary Kulesha
COMPOSER ADVISOR

Alison Yun-Fei Jiang
RBC AFFILIATE COMPOSER

Text and Translations

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.

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. Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion?

The deeps afford no water, and the rivers are exhausted! The suckling's tongue now cleaveth for thirst to his mouth; The infant children ask for bread, and there is no one breaketh it to feed them!

Duet with Chorus: *Lord, Bow thine ear*

The People: Lord, bow thine ear to our pray'r.

Soprano and alto duet: Zion spreadeth her hands for aid; and there is neither help nor comfort.

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.

Aria: *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. Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence!

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!

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.

Recitative: *Elijah, get thee hence*

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

Double Quartet: *For He shall give His angels charge over thee*

The 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.

Recitative: Now Cherith's Brook is dried up

An Angel: Now Cherith's brook is dried up; Elijah, arise and depart, and get thee to Zarepath; 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, Aria and Duet: 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?

Help me, man of God, my son is sick! and his sickness is so sore that there is no breath left in him! I go mourning all the day long. I lie down and weep at night! See mine affliction! Be thou the orphan's helper! Help my son! There is no breath left in him!

Elijah: Give me thy son.

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

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

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

Widow: Shall the dead arise and praise Thee?

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

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

Elijah: Now behold, thy son liveth!

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

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

Chorus: Blessed are the men who fear Him

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: 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.

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

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 command; 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.

Chorus: Baal, we cry to thee

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

Recitative: 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!

Chorus: Baal, hear and answer

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

Aria: Lord God of Abraham

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!

Quartet: Cast thy burden upon the Lord

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: O Thou, who makest thine Angels, Spirits

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

Chorus: The fire descends from heaven!

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: Take all the prophets of Baal

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: Is not his word like a fire?

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, woe unto them

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 have they spoken falsely against Him; from Him have they fled.

Recitative with 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 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 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 forevermore!

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! The stormy billows are high, their fury is mighty. But the Lord is above them, and Almighty!

—INTERMISSION—

Aria: Hear ye, Israel!

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

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

Recitative and Chorus: The Lord hath exalted

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 with Chorus

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

Chorus: The People We heard it with our ears.

Jezebel: Hath he not prophesied also against the king of Israel?

The People: We heard it with our ears.

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

The People: He shall perish!

Jezebel: Hath he not destroyed Baal's prophets?

The People: He shall perish!

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

The People: He destroyed them all!

Jezebel: He also closed the heavens...

The People: He also closed the heavens...

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

The People: ... and called down a famine upon the land.

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

Chorus: Woe to Him!

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: Man of God, now let my words

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: *It is enough*

Elijah: It is enough; O Lord, now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers! I desire to live no longer; now let me die, for my days are but vanity! I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts! For the children of Israel have broken Thy covenant, and thrown down Thine altars, and slain all Thy prophets — slain them with the sword; and I, even I, only am left; and they seek my life to take it away.

Recitative: *See, now he sleepeth*

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

Terzetto: *Lift thine eyes*

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*

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

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.

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

Aria: *O rest in the Lord*

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.

Chorus: *He that shall endure to the end*

He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved.

Recitative: *Night falleth round me*

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 (soprano)* 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!*

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, Quartet and Chorus: Holy, holy, holy

An Angel: Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another:

The Angelic Host: Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord — the Lord Sabaoth! Now His glory hath filled all the earth.

Chorus: Go, return upon thy way

Angels: Go, return upon thy way! For the Lord yet hath left Him seven thousand in Israel, knees which have not bowed to Baal. Go, return upon thy way; thus the Lord commandeth. (I Kings 19:15, 18)

Recitative

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.

Aria: For the mountains shall depart

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.

Chorus: Then did Elijah

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

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.

Recitative and Chorus: 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.

Quartet: O come every one that thirsteth

O come everyone that thirsteth, O come to the waters; O come unto Him. O hear, and your souls shall live forever.

Chorus: And then shall your light break forth

And then shall your light break forth as the light of the 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.

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Kenneth Lund	Peter Nicholls	Sharon & Jed Rosenfeld, in honour of Jan Szot	Timothy Tshin
Karen Luyendyk	Cynthia Nidd	Christopher Ross	Emilia Tung
Eileen MacDonald	Elizabeth Nyburg, in honour of Julia Barber	Susan Rothwell	Clark Unger
Duncan MacIntyre	Kenna Owoh	Renate Roy, in memory of Paul Roy	Tammy van den Brink
Elisa Mangina	Allan Parker	William Ruffett	Cathy Vendramin
Murray Marchant	Mary Anne Parkinson	Catherine Sandrasagra	Bob Vernon
Cheryl Marek	Janet Parsons	Yolanda Savino-Walsh	Teresa Viscomi
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