

Waverley Singers

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Saturday 22 March 2025, 7:30pm

St Andrew's Garrison Church

Aldershot GU11 2BY

Mendelssohn

Elijah

BARITONE - ANDREW RUPP

SOPRANO - MARIANA FERNANDES

MEZZO - JULIA MERINO

TENOR - HARUN TEKIN

CHAMELEON ARTS ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR - RICHARD PEARCE

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Mendelssohn - Elijah

Saturday 22 March 2025, 7:30pm
St Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot

Midsummer Nocturnes

Echoes of Nature
Sunday 22 June 2025, 5:00pm
St Mary's Church, Frensham

The Waverley Sing

Songs from the Stage
Saturday 12 July 2025, 10:30am-4:00pm
St Andrew's Church, Farnham

Opera Gala

Sunday 26 October 2025, 6:00pm
Farnham Maltings

Britten - St Nicolas

Saturday 6 December, 7:30pm
St Thomas-on-The Bourne, Farnham

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PROGRAMME

Part 1

Introduction - As God the Lord of Israel liveth
Overture
Chorus - Help, Lord!
Duet with Chorus - Lord, bow thine ear to our prayer!
Recitative - Ye people, rend your hearts
Aria - If with all your hearts
Chorus - Yet doth the Lord see it not
Recitative - Elijah, get thee hence
Double Quartet - For He shall give his angels charge over thee
Recitative - Now Cherith's brook is dried up
Aria - What have I to do with thee?
Chorus - Blessed are the men who fear Him
Recitative with Chorus - As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth
Chorus - Baal, we cry to thee
Recitative - Call him louder!
Chorus - Hear our cry, O Baal!
Recitative - Call him louder!
Chorus - Baal, hear and answer
Aria - Lord God of Abraham
Quartet - Cast thy burden upon the Lord
Recitative - O Thou, who makest thine Angels, Spirits
Chorus - The fire descends from heaven!
Air - Is not his word like a fire?
Air - Woe unto them who forsake Him!
Recitative - O man of God, help thy people!
Recitative with Chorus - O Lord, Thou hast overthrown
Chorus - Thanks be to God!

INTERVAL

Part 2

Aria - Hear ye Israel!
Chorus - Be not afraid
Recitative and Chorus - The Lord hath exalted thee
Chorus - Woe to him!
Recitative - Man of God
Aria - It is enough
Recitative - See, now he sleepeth
Terzetto - Lift thine eyes
Chorus - He, watching over Israel
Recitative - Arise, Elijah
Aria - O rest in the Lord
Chorus - He that shall endure to the end
Recitative - Night falleth round me
Chorus - Behold, God the Lord passed by!
Recitative, Quartet and Chorus - Holy, Holy, Holy
Chorus - Go, return upon thy way!
Recitative - I go on my way
Arioso - For the mountains shall depart
Chorus - Then did Elijah
Aria - Then shall the righteous shine forth
Recitative and Chorus - Behold, God hath sent Elijah
Chorus - But the Lord, from the north hath raised one
Quartetto - O come every one that thirsteth
Chorus - And then shall your light break forth

PROGRAMME NOTES

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Felix Mendelssohn was born into a wealthy Jewish family in Hamburg on 3 February 1809. His father was a prominent banker and his mother was educated, cultured and fluent in many languages. Mendelssohn was a child prodigy, writing his earliest composition, a lied to his father, when he was ten. His sister, Fanny, was also extremely gifted, and theirs was a very close relationship. Felix corresponded frequently with Fanny throughout his life, sharing all his secrets and confessions; some critics have remarked that their correspondence reads like love letters. Mendelssohn was initially raised without religion until he was baptised aged seven into the Reformed Christian church. This did not prevent him later suffering anti-semitism. He read Greek and Latin, wrote fluently in German, French and English and was also a poet, a draughtsman, and a painter. He was also an accomplished pianist, organist, violinist, violist and conductor. From the age of ten Mendelssohn was taught by Carl Friedrich Zelter, who imparted a profound knowledge of canon, fugue, figured bass and chorale. His musical style drew on many sources and he was both Classical in his approach to form, and Romantic in his ability to be inspired by literary sources.

In 1836, Mendelssohn met and later married Cécile Jeanrenaud. Fanny was extremely jealous, and neither she nor Felix's mother attended the wedding. Felix and Cécile were very happy and had five children.

In May 1847, Mendelssohn received news that his sister had died from a paralytic stroke, while rehearsing one of his works. He fainted at the news, and ruptured a blood vessel in his brain. He suffered depression and extreme pain, and died in his sleep on 4th November aged only 38. He had a large funeral service, in Berlin, and memorial services were held in many cities in Germany, as well as London, Manchester, Birmingham and Paris.

Mendelssohn's contribution to the musical life of the time was considerable. In his position as conductor of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra he was able to perform forgotten music from the past – in particular he gave the first performance of the St. Matthew Passion, BWV 244, since Bach's death. He helped form the role of the modern orchestral conductor, and raised both the status of orchestral players, and the standard of choral and orchestral performance.

Elijah

It is ironic that the two most famous works in the English oratorio tradition should be composed by Germans. However, it is perhaps not surprising that *Elijah* should be one of them as Mendelssohn had extensively studied the works of Bach and Handel.

Mendelssohn's first oratorio, *St. Paul*, was written in 1836 to a libretto by Mendelssohn's friend Julius Schubring. The work was successful, and Mendelssohn was keen to follow it up but the project was put aside early in 1839.

In 1845 the committee of the Birmingham Festival decided to ask Mendelssohn to conduct their next season and requested him to 'consider whether you can provide a new oratorio, or other music, for the occasion'. He wrote back accepting and saying that he had already been working on an oratorio. The correspondence with Schubring was resumed, and by May 1846 Mendelssohn was already writing to his English translator, William Bartholomew, clarifying points of accentuation and meaning. Although Schubring's German libretto was set to music first, Mendelssohn told Bartholomew that he would change the notes in order to preserve the English Bible version of the text. On the whole the translation works well, but there are some awkward accents and turns of phrase; for example, "ex-tir-pate the foe" or "We heard it with our ears". Mendelssohn clearly saw the dramatic possibilities of the libretto, and it inspired him to produce a score with plenty of melodic and harmonic invention and some very pictorial scoring. *Elijah* draws on elements from the German Passion tradition in its use of two opposing factions – the believers in the Lord versus those of Baal, and in his use of hymn-like chorales throughout the piece. However, the work has more overt drama than you find in a passion, such as the scene on Mount Carmel where Baal's supporters are calling upon him to light the fire under the sacrificial ox, or the scene in which *Elijah* is taken to heaven in a fiery chariot.

The first performance in 1846 at the Birmingham Town Hall with Mendelssohn conducting was received rapturously, and he conducted it four times in London the following year. His declining health prevented him from conducting the German premiere in Hamburg in October 1847 shortly before his death.

Elijah

Introduction

Elijah (Bass) As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

Overture

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!

The People Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer.

Two Women Zion spreadeth her hands for aid, and there is neither help nor comfort.

Obadiah (tenor) 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.

'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!

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.

An Angel (alto) 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.

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.

An Angel Now Cherith's brook is dried up, Elijah; arise and depart; and get thee to Zarephath; thither abide: for the Lord hath commanded a widow woman there to sustain

thee. And the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

The Widow (soprano) 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!

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

The Widow Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee?

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

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

Elijah Now behold, thy son liveth!

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

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

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

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

Ahab Art thou Elijah! Art thou he that troubleth Israel!

The People Thou art Elijah, thou he that troubleth Israel!

Elijah I never troubled Israel's peace: it is thou, Ahab, and all thy father's house. Ye have forsaken God's commands; and thou hast follow'd 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 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.

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

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.

Priests of Baal Hear our cry, o Baal, now arise! Wherefore slumber?

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.

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

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 that 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!

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!

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

The People The fire descends from heaven; The flames consume his offering! Before Him upon your faces fall! The Lord is God: O Israel

hear! Our God is one Lord: and we will have no other Gods before the Lord.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 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 away from their sin when Thou dost afflict them; then hear from heaven, and forgive the sin! Help, send Thy servant help, O God!

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

Elijah Go up again, and still look towards the sea.

The Youth There is nothing. The earth is as iron under me!

Elijah Hearest thou no sound of rain? - Seest thou nothing arise from the deep?

The Youth No, there is nothing.

Elijah Have respect to the prayer of Thy servant, O Lord, my God! Unto Thee will I cry, Lord, my rock, be not silent to me; And Thy great mercies remember, Lord!

The Youth Behold, a little cloud ariseth now from the waters; it is like a man's hand! The heavens are black with clouds and with wind; the storm rusheth louder and louder!

The People Thanks be to God for all His mercies!

Elijah Thanks be to God, for He is gracious, and His mercy endureth for evermore!

Chorus 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!

PART 2

Soprano Hear ye, Israel; hear what the Lord speaketh: - "Oh hadst thou heeded my commandments!" Who hath believed our report; to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him oppressed by tyrants: thus saith the Lord: - I am He that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee. Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die; and forgettest the Lord thy Maker, who hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the earth's foundations? Be not afraid, for I, thy God will strengthen thee.

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

Elijah The Lord hath exalted thee from among the people: and over 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 to walk in the sins of Jereboam. 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.

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

Chorus We heard it with our ears.

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

Chorus We heard it with our ears.

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

Chorus He shall perish!

The Queen Hath he not destroyed Baal's prophets?

Chorus He shall perish!

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

Chorus He destroyed them all!

The Queen He also closed the heavens!

Chorus He also closed the heavens!

The Queen And called down a famine upon the land.

Chorus And called down a famine upon the land.

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

Chorus 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!

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.

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

to take it away.

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

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.

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

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 naught, and in vain! 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! 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 evildoers.

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

Elijah Night falleth round me, O Lord! Be not Thou far from me! hide not Thy face, O Lord, from me; my soul is thirsting for Thee, as a thirsty land.

An Angel Arise now! get thee without, stand on the mount before the Lord; for there His glory will appear and shine on thee; Thy face must be veiled, for He draweth near.

Chorus Behold! God the Lord passed by! And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, brake in pieces the rocks, brake them before the Lord: but yet the Lord was not in the tempest. Behold! God the Lord passed by! And the sea was upheaved, and the earth was shaken: but yet the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there came a fire: but yet the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came a still small voice; and in that still voice, onward came the Lord.

Alto Above Him stood the Seraphim. and one cried to another:

Quartett and chorus

Angels Holy, holy, holy, is God the Lord - the Lord Sabaoth! Now His glory hath filled all the earth.

Chorus Go, return upon thy way! For the Lord hath yet left Him seven thousand in Israel, knees which have not bowed to Baal: go return upon thy way; thus the Lord commandeth.

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.

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 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 judgements 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.

Tenor 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 for ever.

Soprano 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.

Chorus But the Lord, from the north has raised one, who from the rising of the sun shall call upon His name and come on princes. Behold my servant and mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth! 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.

Quartet O! come every one that thirsteth, O come to the waters: come unto Him. O hear. and your souls shall live for ever!

Chorus And then shall your light break forth as the light of morning breaketh; and your health shall speedily spring forth then; and the glory of the Lord ever shall reward you. Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy Name is in all the nations! Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory. Amen.

'Elijah' in the History of the Waverley Singers

This will be the fifth time during the Waverley Singers' 70-year history that the choir has performed Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in full: previous concerts were in 1966, 1982, 1995, and 2009. We do not have much detail of the first two performances beyond the names of the orchestra and soloists, but both the 1995 and 2009 versions were reviewed in *The Herald* newspaper, and it is interesting to read the reviews again! Full versions of both reviews, along with details of all our past concerts, are available on our new website (see below), but in the meantime, here are some excerpts.

The 1995 concert was a celebration of our 40th anniversary, and the review included the following:

"On Saturday, in St Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot, to an almost full audience, the Waverley Singers together with the Tilford Bach Orchestra under the direction of Malcolm Hicks, gave their 40th anniversary concert - a performance of Mendelssohn's celebrated oratorio Elijah...The soloists - Sarah Vivian, Deborah Miles-Johnson, Philip Dennis and Tom McVeigh, who took the role of Elijah, sang expressively and with excellent diction...However, the real stars of the evening were undoubtedly the choir themselves. Showing quite clearly the benefits of having as their conductor one of the country's finest and most experienced chorus masters, the Waverley Singers gave a thrilling performance of precision, warmth and fervour richly deserving the huge surge in the applause that was accorded them at the concert's conclusion."



MENDELSSOHN'S **ELIJAH**

SARAH VIVIAN – Soprano
DEBORAH MILES-JOHNSON – Contralto
PHILIP DENNIS – Tenor
TOM McVEIGH – Bass

THE WAVERLEY SINGERS

THE TILFORD BACH ORCHESTRA

(LEADER – PETER STEVENS)

Conductor – MALCOLM HICKS

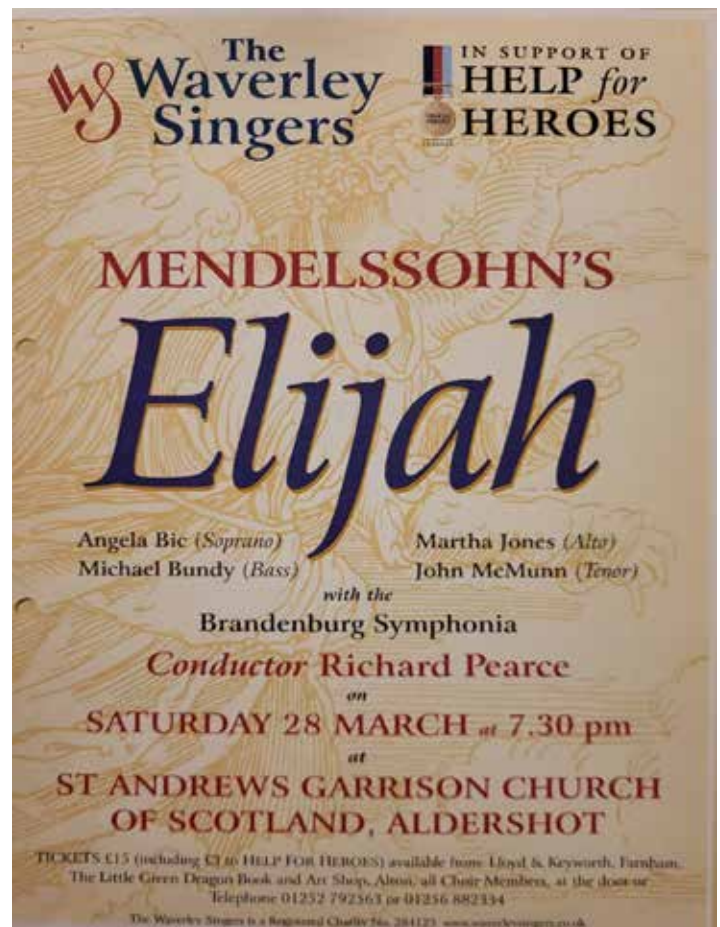
Saturday 18th March 1995 at 7.30 p.m.
at ST. ANDREW'S GARRISON CHURCH
QUEEN'S AVENUE, ALDERSHOT



Programme £9

The 2009 concert was our first performance under new musical director, Richard Pearce, who had only six weeks to prepare us for the event! However, the review headline was “Masterful Elijah a tribute to new conductor”. The piece continued:

“For his first concert as newly appointed conductor of the Waverley Singers in their performance of Mendelssohn’s Elijah, Richard Pearce ably demonstrated his fine musicality and rich personal gift for encouraging each member of the Choir. He communicated both energy and a winning sensitivity to the music, setting just the right pace and dramatic atmosphere. There was a palpable sense of rapport between conductor and choir...It was a special treat for the large audience at St Andrew’s Garrison Church in Aldershot to hear this challenging work last Saturday, and in addition it raised over £1,100 for Help for Heroes and its timely work for the men and women of our Armed Forces wounded in conflicts across the world.”



So, conductor, choir, and audience all have a lot to live up to at this year’s concert! No pressure at all!

Our New Website!

To mark our Platinum Jubilee we have, with the expert support of our Musical Director, Richard Pearce (who also has his own company designing and developing websites: see pearcewebdesign.com) launched a completely new website - **waverleysingers.com**, which includes a comprehensive archive of every concert we have performed in since our founding in 1955. At least, we think it does... We know that some details are missing, particularly but not exclusively from the very early years, and we would be very grateful to any members of our audience who can help us to fill in the gaps. If you have kept any old programmes, publicity materials, photographs, or newspaper cuttings, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

You might wish to take a look at the website first to see whether you have anything that we do not. If you do, please e-mail **socialmedia@waverleysingers.com** and we will get back to you. Thank you in advance for your help!



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TRIO SHAHAM EREZ WALLFISCH

Hagam Shaham (violin); Arnon Erez (piano)
Raphael Wallfisch (cello)

Saturday 26 April 7.30pm

Programme:

Mozart – Piano Trio in E major, K.542

Shostakovich – Piano Trio no.2, Op. 67

Grieg – Andante con moto, EG 116

Dvořák – Piano Trio no.4 in E minor, Op. 90, B.166 'Dumky'

St Bartholomew's Church, Haslemere, GU27 1BP

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Hannah McKay - Soprano

Hannah McKay, a young soprano from Northern Ireland, is in her first year of the Opera Course at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Earlier this year, Hannah won the audience prize at the Glenarm Festival of Voice as well as reaching the finals of the Irish Heritage Bursary Competition, marking her performance debut at Wigmore Hall. In February, she gave the UK premiere of Jessie Montgomery's "Lunar Songs" during a BBC Radio 3 Total Immersion Concert. Hannah's recent concert engagements include performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at Durham Cathedral, Handel's "Messiah," Haydn's "Nelson Mass," and Vaughan Williams's "Sea Symphony." While at Durham University, she was the soprano soloist for Mozart's "Requiem" and Mendelssohn's "Elijah" at the Cathedral. In her operatic endeavors, Hannah recently covered the role of Maria Bertram in Jonathan Dove's "Mansfield Park" and La Fata Azzura in the Guildhall Opera School's production of Respighi's "La Bella dormiente nel bosco." Last summer, Hannah covered Suor Angelica for West Green House Opera as well as being their young artist. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Hons) in Music from Durham University.



Julia Merino - Mezzo-soprano

Julia Merino began her piano and singing studies in her hometown, Málaga in Spain. Awarded the Elizabeth Sweeting scholarship, she is currently finishing the Opera Course programme at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, with professors Janice Chapman and Marcus van den Akker.

As a soloist, she has worked with various national and international orchestras. Some of her notable performances in Spain include oratorios with the Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra and the University of Jaén Orchestra, as well as participations with the Málaga Symphony Orchestra in projects such as Amor Brujo (Falla) and the Metalírica Festival at the Echegaray Theatre in Málaga. She also participated in the Encuentro de Música y Academia de Santander during the summer of 2024. Julia made her operatic debut with the company Northern Opera Group in Leeds in the production of the opera Frida in the summer of 2023. Upcoming operatic projects including the debut of the role of Dido in Dido and Aeneas, which will take place in London. Upcoming projects include piano and orchestra performances in UK and Spain.



Harun Tekin - Tenor

Harun Tekin is an English/Turkish tenor, brought up around a family-owned restaurant in rural Lincolnshire. After developing an interest in music through film, TV and folk, his primary school music teacher (the composer Peter Seabourne) imbued him with a sense of love and wonder for the subject, eventually introducing him to singing where he has found his career. Harun is now continuing his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he is a D'Oyly Carte Trust and City of London scholar.

Last July, he was in the chorus for West Green House Opera's *The Barber of Seville* by Rossini. In June, he will perform the role of Bénédict in New Sussex Opera's production of *The Silver Bell* by Saint-Saens and he will also perform the role of Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* for the Peregrine Orchestra this summer.

Last year, he performed Mozart's *Coronation Mass* for the Royal Choral Society.

Other sacred works he has performed include Bach's *St John's Passion*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Messiah*, Verdi's *Requiem* and Gounod's *St Cecilia Mass* amongst others.

Last Year, Harun performed Schubert's *Winterreise* in London, Lisbon and Oslo. In June, he will perform in The Wigmore Hall and The Salle Cortot in Paris as a part of the Wigmore French Song Exchange.



Andrew Rupp - Baritone

Andrew was born in Canterbury and started singing there as a Cathedral Chorister. He made his debut in 1996 as The Vicar in Britten's *Albert Herring* for British Youth Opera. Since then he has sung roles at Glyndebourne, Berlin Staatsoper, English National Opera, the Royal Opera House, Opera North, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Lausanne, Caen, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Paris, Vienna, Aldeburgh and Cardiff, amongst others.

He performed *The Sea Symphony* at both the Royal Festival Hall with the RPO and the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, its Chinese debut. He also sang with

L'Ensemble Intercontemporain in Paris and Cologne under the direction of Pierre Boulez and was a soloist in the all night performances of John Tavener's *The Veil of the Temple* in London, Amsterdam and New York.

He was High Priest of Jupiter in ENO's *Castor and Pollux*, returning there to sing Bosun in their new production of *Billy Budd*. He sang the title role in Walton's *The Bear* for both Northern Ireland Opera and the Royal Academy of Music.

As a full time member of the BBC Singers, Andrew performs frequently on Radio 3 and has been a soloist on many occasions, including Vaughan-Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, Brahms' *Requiem*, *Carmina Burana* and works by composers from Bach to Birtwistle. He was also a soloist at *The Last Night of the Proms* in both 2017 and 2023.



Chameleon Arts Orchestra

The Chameleon Arts Orchestra is a long-running group of top professional freelance players with vast combined experience of the choral repertoire. The players' skills and empathy are invaluable to choirs and conductors working with the traditional limited on-the-day rehearsal. We are proud of the many accolades we have received from conductors, choral singers and audience members from numerous performances in a great variety of venues.

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Recent performances have included a wind section playing Stravinsky, Bruckner and Jonathan Dove as well as orchestral performances of music by Handel, Mozart, Britten and Holst. Forthcoming concerts include music by Haydn, Mozart, Brahms and Oliver Tarney.

For more information about the orchestra, including testimonials and repertoire performed, please see our website www.chameleonartsorchestra.uk or contact us for a no-obligation quotation for your event at admin@chameleonartsorchestra.uk.

First Violins

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 Mardyah Tucker
 Emma Shackleton
 Vladimir Naumov
 Rachel Allen
 Helen Clissold

Second Violins

Stephanie Waite Principal
 Nancy Taylor
 Helen Twomey
 Liz Barker
 Tim Robinson
 Brigitte Mallon

Violas

Jason Glover Principal
 Adrian Smith
 Jane Browne
 Jane Tyler

Cellos

Lorraine Deacon Principal
 Chris Mansell
 Lawrence Durkin
 Anna Chalmers

Double Bass

Jakub Cywinski Principal
 Gwen Reed

Flutes

Gavin Morrison
 Samantha Moore

Oboes

Sue Busby
 Sylvia Turner

Clarinets

Gary Holdsworth
 Neil Hickling

Bassoons

Dieter Hester
 Sarah Price

Timpani

Ben Fullbrook

Horns

Kevin Elliott
 Clare Lintott
 Martyn Bayliss
 Jane Hanna

Trumpets

Oliver Preece
 Dave Shead

Trombones

Dominic Clarke
 Will Brown
 Jim Alexander

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Edward Leech

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 Baroque Flute - Martin Richards
 Baroque Violin - Gwen Owen Robinson
 Baroque Cello - Hartmut Kuhlmann
 Harpsichord - Sylvia Turner



Richard Pearce
Director of Music
Conductor

Photo - Ian Skelly

Richard has been musical director of the Waverley Singers for over 15 years. During this time, he has led the choir in over 43 performances. Particular highlights have been concerts in Guildford Cathedral of Monteverdi Vespers, Verdi Requiem, Beethoven Mass in C, Brahms Schicksalslied, Mozart Requiem and Bach Magnificat in D. In 2022 he conducted the Bach Mass in B minor, postponed by the pandemic, and Elgar Dream of Gerontius in a combined performance with the Romsey Choral Society. Alongside these major works he has introduced new and varied repertoire to the choir, including commissions by composer Will Todd, and a new commission from Owain Park for 2025.

Richard Pearce was organ scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge. After graduating with first class honours in music, he studied piano accompaniment for two years at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London where he developed his work with solo singers. He is now a professor at the GSMD, coaching singers and instrumentalists for careers in opera and the concert platform, and is a trustee of the Josephine Baker Trust, which supports young soloists at the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

Richard is busy as a conductor, pianist and organist with professional choirs, and is also Musical Director of the Romsey Choral Society. He records and broadcasts regularly with the BBC Singers, and particularly enjoys the challenge of preparing an extremely wide variety of repertoire, including much contemporary and new music. With them, he has conducted works by James MacMillan, Judith Bingham, Britten and Roxanna Panufnik for broadcast on BBC Radio 3. As organist and pianist, he has performed with many of the UK's best-known choral conductors, including David Hill, Stephen Cleobury, Paul Spicer, Bob Chilcott and Sofi Jeannin. Richard has a long-standing association with the Royal Choral Society and performs with them several times a year at the Royal Albert Hall in London. In addition, he makes twice-yearly trips to Sweden to work with groups in the Stockholm and Malmö areas.

Richard is regular organist with the Philharmonia and BBC Symphony Orchestras in London; with them he has performed with many inspirational conductors including Lorin Maazel, Pierre Boulez, Oliver Knussen, Andrew Davis, Sakari Oramo, Marin Alsop and Ed Gardner, as well as Santtu-Matias Rouvali and Jakub Hrůša. He also performs regularly in Promenade concerts and recordings, including at the Last Night of the Proms to a worldwide television audience.

Richard frequently conducts and plays for services at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster and at the Houses of Parliament.



The Waverley Singers

We are a vibrant and exciting choir of nearly 100 members. We perform four or five concerts a year in the Farnham area, covering a wide range of repertoire from Josquin to Jazz. We have the pleasure of performing with professional orchestras and ensembles, soloists, and accompanists, and above all working with our Director of Music and conductor Richard Pearce and our accompanist Jakob Rothoff.

2025 is our 70th Anniversary year, and we are already well in to our Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. These began on Saturday, 18 January, with our well-attended Choral Workshop at St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church, Farnham, which reintroduced us to Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, ahead of our performance of the work at this concert.

On **Sunday 22 June, at 5pm** in St Mary's Church, Frensham, we will give the first performance of a newly commissioned work by Owain Park. This is made possible by the generous legacy left to us by choir member Jo Reader, to whom the work will be dedicated.

On **Saturday 12 July** we will launch our very first **Waverley Sing** event generously supported by Farnham Town Council. This will be a Free Summer Singing day at which we will celebrate and share the joy of choral singing with all comers; no specific musical training or choir membership is needed. The pieces to be sung will be chosen from a variety of repertoire, from opera to musicals.

On **Saturday 26 October**, we shall return to the Farnham Maltings for an **Opera Gala** concert, and on **Saturday 6 December**, we shall be joined by the young choristers of The Bourne Parish Choir to perform **Britten's St Nicolas** in St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church.

It is a fabulous time to join the choir and we are always delighted to welcome new singers. We rehearse every Thursday during term-time, from 7.30pm to 9.45pm in The Spire Church, South Street, Farnham GU9 7QU. If you are interested in joining or simply wish to find out more, please contact:

Carolyn Heathcote

01420 475418

membership@waverleysingers.com



waverleysingers.com

Sopranos

Nicola Anderegg
Claire Bacon
Janet Benson
Sara Burnie
Janet Carne
Joy Cartwright
Johanna Clift
Maureen Collins
Rosie Collinson
Elaine Cook
Philippa Cullen
Diane Drewett
Jane Eckles
Janet Gunn
Anneliese Handley
Sarah Hard
Caroline Hardy
Carolyn Heathcote
Sue Hubbard
Pat Martin
Sally Maxfield
Catherine May
Alyson Paterson
Carolyn Patey
Eleanor Raynsford
Margaret Reeder
Vivien Rieden
Niloofer Rose
Miranda Sargent
Susan Sharpe
Tracy Smith
Alison Stickland
Emily Thomas
Joanne Watson
Maggie Weaver
Sally Wooding
Emma Wyatt

Altos

Juliana Baxter
Sarah Church
Sue Crosfield
Jill Denbigh
Fiona Dick
Sheena Ewen
Catherine Hadfield
Jane Kenney
Ros Knowles
Margaret Mackenzie
Anne Mason
Anna Milburn
Liz Milburn
Faye Mylward
Gillian Phelps
Gillian Pickering
Pamela Poust
Allison Price
Tegwen Robb
Judith Stradling
Julia Stubbs
Rachel Sturt
Sylvia Turner
Esther van Rooyen
Joan Warren
Catherine White
Chris Wilmshurst
Liz Witham
Accompanist: Jakob Rothoff

Tenors

Nick Bailes
Vernon Burford
Tim Devis
David Edwards
Hamish Garland
Robert Gussman
Jo Huddleston
Rosie Jeffery
Christopher Lawrence
David Martin
Alan Mort
Simon Paterson

Basses

Mike Aaronson
Simon Austin
Andrew Baxter
David Budd
Paul Chambers
David Corran
Sam Coulter
Rod Eckles
Hugh Gammell
Bill Griffin
Max Hadfield
Nigel Hague
Graham Hey
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Anyone who is interested in becoming a patron of the choir is invited to contact Joy Cartwright on 01428 741648 or email patrons@waverleysingers.com. All Patrons receive advance notice of concerts and priority booking forms and are entitled to reserved seats in the position of their choice. Their names are listed in concert programmes, and they are also invited to the choir's social events. Donations made under Gift Aid are particularly valuable to the choir.

The Waverley Singers would like to thank the Clergy and the team at St Andrew's Garrison Church for making them so welcome this evening. Our thanks also to Rachel Sturt and Paul Chambers for programme notes, to Sara Burnie for programme editing and graphic design and to Simon Claiden for photography.

At each of our concerts, we invite a local charity to receive the proceeds of a retiring collection. Last season, we raised £602 for The Hunter Centre, £840 for Alton Food Bank, £924 for The Fountain Centre and £1,124 for the Cheryl King Trust. So far this season we have raised £813 for the Farnham Foodbank and £878 for Cardiac Rehab. We are very grateful to all who have given so generously.

Please visit our website for further information: waverleysingers.com

The Waverley Singers is a registered charity no. 284123

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the **Josephine Baker Trust** which has made it possible for us to offer this performance opportunity to the three student soloists from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.



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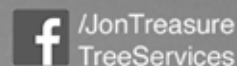
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Waverley Singers

Platinum Celebrations

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