



*The Diamond
Valley Singers &
Eltham College
Choir present
Mendelssohn's*



ELIJAH

at Ormond Uniting Church

on

Saturday November 20th 1993

at 8:00 pm.

Conductor: Graeme Wall

Organist: Rob Simpson

Introduction

Elijah (Graham Ford)

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

1. Help, Lord!

Chorus

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 deep 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.

2. Lord! bow Thine Ear (Mavis Ford & Judith O'Shea & Chorus)

Lord! bow Thine ear to our prayer! Zion spreadeth her hands for aid; and there is neither help nor comfort.

3. Ye people rend your hearts Obadiah (Kenneth Neate)

Ye people, rend your hearts, and not your garments, for your transgressions the Prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens through te 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.

4. If with all your hearts Obadiah (Kenneth Neate)

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.

5. Yet doeth the Lord see it not Chorus

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 - on all them that love Him, and keep His commandments.

6. Elijah! get thee hence Elijah Angel (Judith O'Shea)

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.

7. For He shall give His angels Angels (Nancy Cornwallis,

Linda Mitchell, Irene Hayes, Gael Grove, Michael Try, Anthony Marshall, Simon Newnham, Peter Newton)

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.

Now Cherith's brook is dried up Angel (Judith O'Shea)

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.

8. What have I to do with thee?

Widow & Elijah (Mavis & Graham Ford)

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.

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, let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live!

Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? There is no breath left in him. *Lord, my God, let the spirit of this child return that he again may live!*

Shall the dead arise and praise thee?

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

The Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul of my son reviveth!
Now behold, thy son liveth!

Now by this I know that thou art a may 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?

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

9. Blessed are the men **Chorus**

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.

10. As God the Lord **Elijah & Ahab (Graham Ford & Kenneth Neate)**

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.

Art thou Elijah? Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

Thou art Elijah, he that troubleth Israel!

I never troubleth Israel's peace: it is thou, Ahab, and all thy father's house. Ye have forsaken God's commands: and thou hast followed Baalim! Now send and father 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 Jezebels table. Then we shall see whose God is the Lord.

And then we shall see whose God is the Lord.

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.

Yea; and the God who by fire shall answer, let him be God.

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.

11. Baal we cry to thee **Double Chorus**

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 they flames fall and extirpate the foe! Baal, O hear us!

12. Call him louder **Elijah (Graham Ford & Chorus)**

Call him louder, for he is a god! He talketh; or he is pursuing; or is he in a journey; or, peradventure, he sleepeth: so awaken him: call him louder.

Hear our cry. O Baal! now arise! wherefore slumber?

13. Call him louder **Elijah (Graham Ford & Chorus)**

Call him louder! he heareth not. With knives and lancets cut yourselves after your manner: leap upon the alter ye have made: call him, and prophesy! Not a voice will answer you; none will listen, none heed you.

Hear and answer Baal! Mark how the scorner derideth us! Hear and answer!

Draw near all ye people: come to me!

14. Lord God of Abraham **Elijah (Graham Ford)**

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 these 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!

15. Cast thy burden **Chorus**

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.

16. O Thou, who makest Thine angel spirits

Elijah (Graham Ford & Chorus)

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

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!

18. Woe unto them

(Judith O'Shea)

Woe unto them that 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.

19. O man of God

Obadiah, Elijah, Youth

(Kenneth Neate, Graham Ford, Catherine McGain & Chorus)

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.

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!

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

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

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

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!

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

Go up again, and still look toward the sea.

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

Hearst thou no sign of rain, seest thou nothing arise from the deep?

No; there is nothing.

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!

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!

Thanks be to God, for all His mercies!

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

20. Thanks be to God

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!

INTERVAL

21. Hear ye, Israel

(Nancy Cornwallis)

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."

22. Be not Afraid

Chorus

Be no 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.

23. The Lord hath exalted thee

Elijah, Queen & Chorus (Graham Ford & Judith O'Shea)

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 alter 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.

Have ye not heard he hath prophesied against all Israel?

We heard it with our ears.

Hath he not prophesied also against the king of Israel?

We heard it with our ears.

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!

He shall perish!

Hath he not destroyed Baal's prophets?

He shall perish!

Yea, by sword he destroyed them all!

He destroyed them all!

He also closed the heavens!

He also closed the heavens!

And called down a famine upon the land.

And called down a famine upon the land.

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

25. Man of God Obadiah & Elijah (Kenneth Neate & Graham Ford)

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 they steps; that they may seize thee, that they may slay thee. Arise then, and hasten for they life; to the wilderness journey. The Lord thy God doth go with thee: e will not fail thee, He will not forsake thee. Now begone, and bless me also.

Though stricken, they have not grieved! Tarry hear, my servant: the Lord be with thee. I journey hence to the wilderness.

26. It is enough

Elijah (Graham Ford)

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 alters, 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.

27. See, now he sleepeth

(Kenneth Neate)

See, now he sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness; but the angels of the Lord encamp round about all them that fear Him.

28. Lift thine eyes (Mavis Ford, Mary-Anne Neal, Linda Mitchell)

Life 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.

29. He, watching over Israel

Chorus

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, not sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief languish, He will quicken thee.

30. Arise, Elijah Angel & Elijah (Judith O'Shea & Graham Ford)

Arise, Elijah, for thou hast a long journey before thee. Forty days and forty nights shalt thou go to Horeb, the mount of God.

O Lord, I have laboured in vain; yea, I have spent my strength for naught! 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 has Thou made them to err from Thy ways, and hardened their hearts that they do not fear Thee? O that I now might die!

31. O rest in the Lord

Angel (Gael Grove)

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.

32. He that shall endure to the end

Chorus

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

33. Night falleth round me

Elijah & Angel (Graham & Mavis Ford)

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.

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.

34. Behold, God the Lord

Chorus

Behold, God the Lord passed by! And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, broke in pieces the rocks, broke them before the Lord: and 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.

35. Holy, Holy, Holy

Quartet & Chorus (Judith O'Shea, Nancy Cornwallis, Kaye Driver, Linda Mitchell, Gail Grove)

Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another.

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

38. Then did Elijah

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.

39. Then shall the righteous

(Kenneth Neate)

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.

42. And then shall the light

Chorus

And then shall the 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.



Diamond Valley Singers

In 1985 Ian Lowe, conductor of the Diamond Valley & Eltham Community Orchestra, invited Graham and Mavis Ford to help in staging "Trial by Jury" with the orchestra in aid of "World Vision". Rehearsals began and the "Valley Musical Society" (later "Diamond Valley Singers") was formed to provide local singers with opportunities to be heard in public and raise money for charity. Last year \$9,000 was donated to Community Aid Abroad and the Eltham Emergency Relief Fund.

Since then the singers and orchestra have combined in seven more Gilbert and Sullivan performances, now performed at Warrandyte High School, as well as numerous oratorios and cantatas, and concerts such as today. They have also performed at local Carols by Candlelight services as well as in the massed choir at the Sydney Myer Music Bowl on Christmas Eve.

The Diamond Valley Singers performed Handel's "Messiah" in the November / December period with seventeen soloists coming from within the group and had a very successful season of "The Yeomen of the Guard".

Eltham College Choir

The Eltham College Choir is comprised mainly of parents or friends of Eltham College. Established six years ago as part of the adult music program it has performed at various school functions over the years. The most recent performance was Vivaldi's "Gloria".

Graeme Wall

Graeme studied singing and performed in England for four years. He returned as tenor soloist for the Victorian State Opera for ten years and has been soloist with various local and interstate choirs. He is currently Director of Music for Eltham College.

Robert Simpson

Rob is trained as a pianist and organist and has been organist at a number of distinguished churches. He has been keyboard co-ordinator at Eltham College for fifteen years.