

## Preston Symphony Orchestra

Preston Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1950. It is generously supported by the City of Darebin.

Rehearsals are held on Mondays at 7:45pm in Preston Town Hall.

There are four main concerts a year, including the Youth Concerto Competition. The orchestra's past repertoire has included Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, Dvorak's *Cello Concerto*, *Scheherazade*, Holst's *The Planets*, symphonies including Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Brahms *Requiem* and several operas including Bizet's *Carmen*, Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *Il Trovatore* and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

Guest soloists have included Alfred Hornung, Spiros Rantos, Brachi Tilles and Nehama Patkin. Past conductors have included Damian Richardson, Phillip Green and Stuart Wilkie. The next concert is on May 4, 2003.

Subscriptions: \$20 per year and \$10 concession

Enquiries Barbara Trauer 9497 2351

## Diamond Valley Singers

In 1985 the Diamond Valley Singers was formed to provide local singers with opportunities to be heard in public, and to raise money for charity. So far well over \$80 000 has been donated to organisations such as World Vision, Community Aid Abroad, Eltham/Diamond Valley Housing Service, Harrison Youth Services, Eltham Emergency Relief Fund and Open House.

Since the initial production of *Trial by Jury*, Diamond Valley Singers have performed most Gilbert and Sullivan productions (sometimes adapted), as well as Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and an Australian adaption of Lehar's most popular operetta, *The Merry Widow from Bluegum Creek*.

Diamond Valley Singers also perform one major oratorio annually. Over the years these have included *The Messiah* (Handel), *The Seasons* and *The Creation* (Haydn), *The Last Judgement* (Spohr), *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* (Vaughan Williams), *Elijah* (Mendelssohn), *Magnificat in D* and *The Christmas Oratorio* (Bach), *Ode on St Cecilia's Day* (Purcell) and *Requiem* and *Mass in C Minor* (Mozart).

New members are always welcome. There are no auditions for chorus parts. We rehearse on Wednesday nights at the Diamond Creek Uniting Church. Contact Graham Ford (9439 3267).

## Preston Symphony Orchestra

Incorporated A0036618K

Supported by City of Darebin

with the

## Diamond Valley Singers

conducted by Christopher Kopke

Mendelssohn's

# ELIJAH





## Conductor: Chris Kopke

Christopher graduated from Melbourne University with a BEd in '91 and MMus (performance) degree in '97. As a professional violinist, he has worked as the Associate-Concertmaster of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and the Concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of Geelong and has toured extensively throughout Australia, Europe, Asia and Africa. He has also performed with artists such as Rudolf Nureyev, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Sir Harry Secombe, Jose Carreras, Mikis Theodorakis and for the Victorian State Opera and Bolshoi Ballet. He has also performed on numerous commercial sound-tracks for film and television.

Christopher is currently the Conductor of the Preston Symphony and the Heidelberg Symphony. He has been a guest conductor for the "Concerto Collection" Orchestra in association with the ABC, the Port Fairy Spring Festival, the Australian Army Band Melbourne and the Kooyong Chamber Orchestra. Apart from being an examiner for the Australian Music Examiners Board (AMEB), he lectures in string pedagogy at the University of Melbourne and Victoria University. In the past year Christopher has toured to Indonesia, Malaysia and New Zealand, on behalf of the AMEB, where he presented clinics and master-classes for young violinists and pedagogical workshops for teachers.

## Elijah: Robert Arnts, baritone



Robert joined The Victorian College of the Arts, "Opera Studio," in 1999 under the direction of David Kram.

In the last year Robert was a semi-finalist Herald Sun Aria 2001, recipient of Madam Ashton Scholarship 2001, and was rewarded with a Ballarat Arts Foundation Grant. He earned his A.Mus.A, graduated from a 3 year Opera Studio at The Victorian College of the Arts, and was involved in the Official Finale of Victoria's Centenary of Federation Celebrations held in Alfred Deakin Place, Ballarat. He was a soloist in a concert, commemorating the International Year of the Volunteer, a participant in "Summer School Master Class in Opera 2002" with Victor Morris

F.R.M.C.M. held in Sydney, a Leading Artist at "Opera in the Park 2002" for Stonnington Council and a performer at "Opera in the Orchards" for the More Than Opera Company as part of the Shepparton Arts Festival 2002.

## Soprano: Carmella De Losinno

Melbourne-born soprano, Carmella De Losinno is a graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts and Monash University. She has been a member of Opera Australia since 1998 and has studied and given concerts in both Germany and Italy. She has performed operatic roles ranging from Santuzza (*Cavalleria Rusticana*), Suor Angelica (*Suor Angelica*) to Blanche (*Dialogues of the Carmelites*) and Nancy (*Albert Herring*). Carmella has also won several vocal competitions and was a finalist in the City of Sydney MacDonaldis Aria. She performs regularly in concert and recital.



Carmella has recently released her first CD of Italian songs and arias, titled 'Il Bacio'.

## Mezzo: Teresa Fanning

An experienced oratorio performer, Teresa has appeared as the Alto soloist in *Christmas Oratorio* and *Messiah* with Ballarat Symphony, Mozart *Requiem* at St. Pauls Cathedral, Mozart *Coronation Mass* and *The Messiah* at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Future engagements include performances at the Cannizaro Park Festival, Wimbeldon, UK.

Teresa sang Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with Preston Symphony Orchestra in 2001, and made her European debut in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

In 2000 Teresa represented Australia at the finals of the Belvedere International Singing Competition in Vienna and performed recitals throughout Tuscany.



## Tenor: Matthew Davine

In oratorio, Matthew has performed as tenor soloist in Handel's *The Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* and *The Crucifixion* by Stainer among many others.

Earlier this year Matthew sang as the Evangelist in Bach's *St John Passion*. Matthew was also tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Mass in C* with the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic.

Matthew has also sung in recital for the British Music Society, the Lieder Society of Victoria, and the Robert Stolz Society.



## PART 1

### 1 THE FAMINE

*Elijah*

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

**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 and chorus*

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

*Obadiah*

Ye people, rend your hearts and not  
your garments.

For your transgressions, the prophet  
Elijah hath sealed the heavens  
through the work 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.

**Yet doth the Lord see it not; He  
mocketh at us.**

**His curse hath fallen down upon us,  
His wrath will persue us till He  
destroy us.**

**For He, the Lord our God, He is a  
jealous God, and He visiteth all  
the father's sins on the children to  
the third and fourth generation of  
them that hate Him.**

**His mercies on thousands fall on all  
them that love Him and keep His  
commandments.**

### 2 ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW

*Angel*

Elijah! get thee hence. Depart and turn  
thee eastward; thither hide thee by  
Cherith's brook.

There shalt thou drink its waters, and  
the Lord thy God hath commanded  
the ravens to feed thee there; so do  
according to His word.

**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  
they shall uphold thee.**

*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.

*Widow*

What have I to do with thee, O man of  
God?

Art thou come to call my sins unto  
remembrance?

to slay my son art thou come thither?  
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.

O turn 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! Shall the  
dead arise, and praise thee? The  
Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul  
of my son reviveth.

*Elijah*

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 for all  
His benefits to me?

*Elijah*

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!

**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.**

### 3 CHALLENGE TO THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

*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.

*King Ahab*

Art thou Elijah? art 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 followed Baalim!  
Now send and gather unto 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.

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 will call on the Lord Jehovah.  
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.

**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!**

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.

**Hear our cry, O Baal!**

**Now arise! wherefore slumber?**

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 will heed you.

**Baal! hear and answer, Baal!**

**Mark how the scorner derideth us!**

*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. Lord God of Abraham!  
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.

**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 heav'ns.**

**Let none be made ashamed that wait upon Thee.**

#### **4 GOD ANSWERS WITH FIRE**

*Elijah*

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

**The fire descends from heav'n, the flames consume his off'ring. 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.

*Alto*

Woe unto them who forsake Him!  
destruction shall fall upon them, for they have transgressed against Him. Though they are by Him redeemed, yet they have spoken falsely against Him.  
Even from Him have they fled.  
Woe unto them!

#### **5 THE END OF THE DROUGHT**

*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 heav'ns 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 Thy servant now, O God!

Go up now, child, and look toward the sea.

Hath my prayer been heard by the Lord?

*Youth*

There is nothing. The heav'ns 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 dost afflict them ...

Then hear from heav'n and forgive the sin!

Help! send Thy servant help O God!  
Go up again and still look toward the sea.

*Youth*

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

*Elijah*

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

*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!

*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!

**Thanks be to God for all His mercies!**

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

**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!**

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INTERVAL

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## PART II

### 6 ELIJAH CONFRONTS KING AHAB AND QUEEN JEZEBEL

*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 are thou, that thou are afraid  
of a man that shall die, and  
forgettest the Lord, thy Maker,  
who hath stretched forth the heavens,  
laid the earth's foundations?"

**"Be not afraid", saith God thy 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 o'er His people Israel hath made  
thee king.

But thou, Ahab, has 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 has made a grove and an altar to  
Baal,

and serv'd him and worshipp'd him.  
Thou hast killed the righteous, and  
also taken possession.

And the Lord shall smite Israel, as a  
reed is shaken in the water  
and He shall give Israel up, and thou  
shalt know He is the Lord.

*Queen Jezebel with chorus*

Have ye not hear he hath prophesied  
against all Israel?

**We have heard it with our ears!**

Hath he not prophesied also against the  
king of Israel?

And why has he spoken in the Name of  
the Lord?

Doth Ahab govern the kingdom of  
Israel while Elijah's pow'r is greater  
than the kings?

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!

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!

### 7 ELIJAH FLEES FOR HIS LIFE

*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 be gone, 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.

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  
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.

*Angels*

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the  
mountains, whence cometh help.

Thy help cometh from the Lord, the  
Maker of heavens and earth.

He hath said, thy foot shall not be  
moved;

thy Keeper will never slumber.

**He, watching over Israel, slumbers  
not, nor sleeps.**

**Shouldst thou, walking in grief,  
languish, He will quicken thee.**

### 8 ELIJAH IS SUMMONED BEFORE GOD

*Angel*

Arise, Elijah, for thou has 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!

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 wonder of Thy works!

O Lord, why hast Thou made them to  
err from Thy ways,

and harden their hearts that they do not  
fear Thee? O that I now might die!

*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

evildoers.

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

*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.

*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.

**Behold! God the Lord passed by!  
And a mighty wind rent the  
mountains around, brake into  
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.**

**The sea was upheaved, the earth was  
shaken,**

**But yet the Lord was not in the fire.  
And after the fire came a still small  
voice,  
and in that still voice onward came  
the Lord.**

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

**Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord  
Sabaoth!**

**Now His glory hath filled all the  
earth.**

## **9 ELIJAH RETURNS TRIUMPHANT**

**Go return upon thy way,  
for the Lord yet hath left Him seven  
thousand in Israel,  
knees which have not bowed to Baal.  
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.

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.

**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.**

## **10 THE PROMISE**

*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 forever.

*Quartet*

O come ev'ry one that thirsteth,  
O come to the waters, O come unto  
Him.

O hear, and your souls shall live  
forever.

**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 shall be  
thy reward.**

**Lord our Creator,  
how excellent Thy Name is  
in all the nations.**

**Thou fillest heaven with glory.  
Amen.**

Mendelssohn's *Elijah* is probably the second most popular oratorio, the first being the well known *The Messiah* by Handel. Mendelssohn knew both Handel's and Haydn's works in this form, and had been instrumental in the revival of Bach's oratorios, particularly his St Matthew Passion.

*Elijah* was first performed in Birmingham, England, in 1846, in an English translation created with the assistance of an Englishman; it was conducted by the composer. The music was modified so that verses from the King James version of the Bible could be used intact. Mendelssohn died 14 months later.

The story is highly dramatic, almost operatic in character, with its confrontations between Elijah and most other characters. Taking place at the end of a long drought, it was a pivotal point in the development of the Jewish religion, from which Christianity later developed.