



ELIJAH

by Felix
Mendelssohn

JERSEY FESTIVAL CHOIR

70TH ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE

JAMES SOUTHALL



7:30 PM SATURDAY 2ND MAY
ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE

Why Elijah?



Jersey Festival Choir was founded to perform the great choral masterworks — beginning with *Messiah* in 1956. Since then, a number of large-scale works have become especially associated with the Choir's history and identity, among them *Messiah*, Haydn's *The Creation*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

In choosing a work for this 70th anniversary season, *Elijah* felt an especially fitting choice. Other ensembles in Jersey have performed *Messiah* in recent years, and Jersey Festival Choir most recently performed *The Creation* in 2022 under the baton of James Southall. By contrast, *Elijah* has not been performed by the Choir since 2006.

Its return therefore feels particularly appropriate in an anniversary year: a chance to revisit one of the great pillars of the choral repertoire, and one that holds an important place in the Choir's own musical history. It is also a work that speaks directly to the traditions from which the Choir itself was formed.

Mendelssohn composed *Elijah* very much in the spirit of his great Baroque predecessors, Bach and Handel, whose music he deeply admired. The result is an oratorio of tremendous dramatic power, but also of lyrical beauty, tenderness and spiritual depth. First performed in its English version at Birmingham Town Hall on 26 August 1846, conducted by Mendelssohn himself, *Elijah* was immediately recognised as a masterpiece. *The Times* described the premiere as “never ... a more complete triumph – never a more thorough and speedy recognition of a great work of art”.



For Jersey Festival Choir, *Elijah* represents exactly the kind of ambitious, moving and substantial music the Choir was created to perform. For a 70th anniversary celebration, it felt both meaningful and exciting to bring it back.

JERSEY FESTIVAL CHOIR

ST CECILIA ORCHESTRA

James Southall - Conductor

Gareth Brynmor John - Bass

Charlotte Jane Kennedy - Soprano

Esmée Loughlin-Dickenson - Alto

Tom Law - Tenor

Omara Silvester - Soprano

A message from our Musical Director

On behalf of the Jersey Festival Choir, may I welcome you to our anniversary concert. In this programme, you will learn a little about the Choir's history. We were formed to perform the 'big works', such as Mendelssohn's Elijah which we offer you this evening. It has been some time since we last performed it; more than one person had asked me in recent years when we would do this magnificent work again!

We are delighted to be conducted by James Southall once again and to be joined by our wonderful soloists and orchestra. Our first concert in 1956 took place in St. Helier Methodist Centre (then known as Wesley Grove) and it is fitting that we perform here once more. The Church has been the home of many of our Spring concerts.

I am grateful for all the work and commitment of everyone taking part in this evening's concert. The Jersey Festival Choir has been making music for 70 years and I hope you enjoy this latest chapter in its ongoing story.



MEET OUR CONDUCTOR

James Southall



James Southall is a British musician who, having spent a number of years living and learning in Jersey, is pleased to be returning to the island to conduct the Jersey Festival Choir in their 70th anniversary performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Whilst living here, he played Cello as part of Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Jersey Youth Orchestra and Channel Islands Youth Orchestra before going on to study as Organ Scholar at Queens' College, Cambridge, and later at the Royal College of Music, London, laying the foundations for a distinguished international career.

James is a conductor and pianist and currently serves as Music Director of the David Seligman Opera School at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He spent nearly fifteen years with Welsh National Opera, conducting a wide range of productions including *Madama Butterfly*, *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *Die Fledermaus* and *The Barber of Seville*. He has also conducted for English Touring Opera, Sinfonia Cymru and Camerata Nordica, and worked with leading houses including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Teatro Real Madrid and La Monnaie in Brussels.

An accomplished pianist, James has performed at Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall, and is a former winner of the Accompanist's Prize at both the Kathleen Ferrier Awards and the Maggie Teyte Competition. He has collaborated with distinguished artists including Sir Bryn Terfel, Elizabeth Watts and Ailish Tynan. Alongside his performing career, he is deeply committed to mentoring and nurturing the next generation of musicians



ROLES IN ELIJAH

Mendelssohn's *Elijah* tells the story of the Old Testament prophet Elijah and his struggle to uphold faith in the one true God.

Part I: In a time of drought, Elijah declares that no rain will fall upon the land. As the people suffer, he calls them back to God. In a dramatic confrontation, the prophets of Baal fail to summon their god, while Elijah's prayer brings fire from heaven. The people turn back in awe, and rain finally returns.

Part II: Despite this triumph, Elijah is forced to flee from Queen Jezebel and falls into despair. In the wilderness, he is comforted by angels and renewed in spirit. God is revealed not in wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a "still small voice." Strengthened, Elijah continues his mission, and the work ends with his ascent to heaven.



Elijah (baritone), prophet and the hero of the story.



Ahab (tenor), King of the Israelites and worshipper of Baal.



The Youth (soprano), first to spot rain clouds on the horizon.



Obadiah (tenor), head of King Ahab's household and a fellow devoted believer in God.



An Angel (mezzo-soprano), one of two to appear to Elijah.



The Angel (soprano), who comforts Elijah in the wilderness, directing him to Mount Horeb where he sees God.



The Queen, Jezebel (mezzo-soprano) who turns against Elijah, ordering his execution.



The Widow (soprano), who shelters Elijah, and whose son he resurrects.

The chorus acts as both The People and as a commentator on the drama itself, as in ancient Greek theatre.

MEET OUR SOLOISTS

Gareth Brynmor John - Bass



Winner of the Kathleen Ferrier Award, baritone Gareth Brynmor John studied at Cambridge, the Royal Academy of Music where he won the Patrons' Award, and the National Opera Studio where he was supported by the Royal Opera House. He made his debut with Welsh National Opera singing Schauard (La Bohème) in 2017 and has since returned for various roles including Papageno/ Die Zauberflöte, Masetto/Don Giovanni and Sharpless/Madama Butterfly. Recent and future engagements include Donner / Das Rheingold for Grimeborn Opera, Papageno for Wild Arts Opera and the English Clerk / Death in Venice for WNO.

He works with some of the leading orchestras in Europe including Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, London Symphony Orchestra and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with repertoire including Elijah, Faure Requiem, Vaughan Williams Mystical Songs and he has previously appeared as the featured soloist in the BBC television Christmas Eve broadcast of Carols from Kings. Gareth is an acclaimed recitalist and performs regularly at leading venues and festivals including the Wigmore Hall, London Song and Oxford International Song Festivals.

Charlotte Jane Kennedy - Soprano

Charlotte Jane Kennedy is a British soprano and winner of the Loveday Song Prize at the 2024 Kathleen Ferrier Awards, and is currently a member of the Royal College of Music International Opera School, studying with Janis Kelly. At the RCM her roles have included Sandrina (La finta giardiniera), Vixen (The Cunning Little Vixen), Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro) and Mistinguett (Chanson des Quais). She has appeared with Garsington Opera as Giannetta (L'elisir d'amore), covered Amor (Platée), sang Papagena at their Opera Gala, and was an Alvarez Emerging Artist. She recently made her international debut as Fiordiligi (Così fan tutte) at the Da Ponte Opera Festival in Italy.

Charlotte is also a prize-winning recitalist who has performed at Wigmore Hall, been a Leeds Lieder Young Artist, and won major song competitions at the RCM. A First-Class graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, she is generously supported by the Andrea Bocelli Foundation - Community Jameel Scholarship and other charitable trusts.





Esmée Loughlin-Dickenson - Alto

Cornish born Mezzo-Soprano Esmée Loughlin-Dickenson graduated from the Royal College of Music in 2024 with a Bachelor's Degree and is continuing there for her Masters with Ben Johnson and Caroline Dowdle. She is a Helen Marjorie Tonks Scholar and is generously supported by the Josephine Baker Trust.

Esmée's recent performances include Nancy (Albert Herring), Mistress Quickly (Falstaff) and Stewardess (Flight) as part of the RCM opera scenes.

This past Autumn, Esmée made her professional debut with Hampstead Garden Opera as Ottavia in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, directed by Ashley Pearson.

Esmée has performed in masterclasses with Edith Wiens, Brindley Sherratt, Dame Ann Murray, Michael Chance, and Bernarda Fink and was member of the 2024/2025 Udo Reinemann International Masterclass cohort in Brussels where she worked with Christianne Stotijn, Anna Larsson, Markus Hadulla, David Selig and Maarten Koningsberger. In September, Esmée will be joining the Académie of the Opéra-Comique in Paris for their 2026/27 season.



Tom Law - Tenor

Tom Law is a British tenor currently studying for a Master's in Vocal and Operatic Performance at the Royal College of Music in London with Timothy Evans-Jones and Bryan Evans.

He is supported by the John Nickson and Simon Rew Scholarship in memory of Sir Peter Jonas, the Geoffrey Boyes Memorial Scholarship, the Josephine Baker Trust and the Poppy Holden Award.

Tom is a Young Artist with Waterperry Opera Festival, performing in the ensemble of *La Bohème*, and was previously an Alvarez Emerging Artist (2025) with Garsington Opera, appearing in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and *Fidelio*. In March 2026, he sings *The Podestà* in *La Finta Giardiniera*, his final production after six years at the RCM.

Alongside opera, Tom is an experienced concert soloist, performing works including Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* and *Requiem*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and *Creation*, and Mendelssohn's *Paulus and Elijah*. He also performs widely as a chorus singer, tours nationally, and has recorded multiple albums with leading London ensembles.





Omara Silvester - Soprano

Omara is currently in her first year of her degree in Classical Singing at the Royal Northern College of Music. She has been studying singing for over a decade under the guidance of Imogen Nicholls MBE and remains a long-standing member of Imogen's choir, The Musical Originals. Over the years, Omara has performed as a soloist and taken part in numerous masterclasses, developing a strong and versatile musical foundation.

Omara has been a member of the award-winning Musical Originals Singers since the age of 7, beginning in the Training Choir, which won the BBC Children's Choir of the Year in 2016. With the choir, she has performed internationally, including an appearance at Let the People Sing at the Musiikkitalo in Helsinki in October 2017, alongside many other concerts and competitions. Alongside her studies, Omara continues to enjoy singing with a range of island ensembles and is currently a member of both the Amity Singers and the Jersey Chamber Choir.



ST CECILIA ORCHESTRA

St Cecilia, symbol for the divine power of music. When the Jersey Festival Choir started in 1955, it developed strong links with the Royal Academy of Music, who would arrange for its orchestra, professor, students of conducting, and soloists to visit Jersey annually to present a weekend of wonderful choral and orchestral concerts in the Island, based at Wesley Grove (now St Helier Methodist Centre). When this partnership came to a natural end, the choir hosted other orchestras including the St Cecilia Orchestra, conducted for many years by John Lobb, and the name of which is retained for the unique orchestra made up for this evening's performance.



Elijah

an oratorio

The Author of the English Version of our performance has endeavoured to render it as nearly in accordance with the Scriptural Texts as the Music to which it is adapted will admit: the references are therefore to be considered rather as authorities than quotations.



Part I

INTRODUCTION

Elijah: As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. [1 Kings 17:1]

OVERTURE

No 1 CHORUS

The People: Help, Lord! wilt Thou quite destroy us? The harvest now is over, the summer days are gone, and yet no power cometh to help us! [Jeremiah 8:20]. Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion? [Jer. 8:19]

RECITATIVE:

Chorus: The deeps afford no water; and the rivers are exhausted! The suckling's tongue now cleaveth for thirst to his mouth: the infant children ask for bread, and there is no one breaketh it to feed them! [Lamentations 4:4]

No 2 DUET AND CHORUS

The People: Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer. [Psalm 86:1, 6]

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

No 3 RECITATIVE

Obadiah: Ye people, rend your hearts and not your garments for your transgressions; even as Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to ye, Forsake your idols, return to God: for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil. [Joel 2:12, 13]

No 4 AIR

Obadiah: If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me. Thus saith our God. [Deuteronomy 4:29; Jer. 29:13] Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before his presence. [Job 23:3]

No 5 CHORUS

The People: Yet doth the Lord see it not: He mocketh at us; His curse hath fallen down upon us; His wrath will pursue us, till He destroy us. [Dt. 28:15; 28:22]. For He, the Lord our God, He is a jealous God; and He visiteth all the fathers' sins upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him. His mercies on thousands fall – fall on all them that love Him and keep His commandments. [Exodus 20:5, 6]

No 6 RECITATIVE

An Angel: Elijah! get thee hence; depart and turn thee eastward: thither hide thee by Cherith's brook. There shalt thou drink its waters; and the Lord thy God hath commanded the ravens to feed thee there; so do according unto His word. [1 Kgs. 17:3–5]

No 7 DOUBLE QUARTET

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. [Ps. 91:11, 12]

RECITATIVE

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. [1 Kgs. 17:9, 14]

No 8 RECITATIVE AND AIR

The Widow: What have I to do with thee, O man of God? art thou come to call my sin unto remembrance? – to slay my son art thou come hither? [1 Kgs. 17:18]. Help me, man of God! my son is sick and his sickness is so sore, that there is no breath left in him! [1 Kgs. 17:17]

RECITATIVE

Elijah: Give me thy son. [1 Kgs. 17:19]
Turn unto her, O Lord my God; in mercy help this widow's son! For Thou art gracious, and full of compassion, and plenteous in mercy and truth. [Ps. 86:15]. Lord my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live. [1 Kgs. 17:21]

The Widow: Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee? [Ps. 88:10]

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

The Widow: The Lord hath heard thy prayer, the soul of my son reviveth! [1 Kgs. 17:22]

Elijah: Now behold, thy son liveth! [1 Kgs. 17:23]

The Widow: Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that His word in thy mouth is the truth. [1 Kgs. 17:24] What shall I render to the Lord, for all his benefits to me? [Ps. 116:12]

Both: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God; with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. [Dt. 6:5]. O blessed are they who fear Him! [Ps. 128:1]

No 9 CHORUS

Blessed are the men who fear Him: they ever walk in the ways of peace. Through darkness riseth light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate; He is righteous. [Ps. 112:1, 4]

No 10 RECITATIVE AND CHORUS

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. [1 Kgs. 18:15, 1]

Ahab: Art thou Elijah? he that troubleth Israel! [1 Kgs. 18:17]

Chorus: 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 commands; and thou hast followed Baalim! [1 Kgs. 18:18]. Now send and gather to me, the whole of Israel unto Mount Carmel: there summon the prophets of Baal, and also the prophets of the groves, who are feasted at Jezebel's table. Then we shall see whose God is God the Lord. [1 Kgs. 18:19, 21]

Chorus: 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. [1 Kgs. 18:23, 24]

Chorus: 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. [1 Kgs. 18:22, 25]

No 11 CHORUS

Priests of Baal: Baal, we cry to thee; hear and answer us! Heed the sacrifice we offer! hear us, O hear us, Baal! [1 Kgs. 18:26] Hear, mighty god! Baal, O answer us! Let thy flames fall and extirpate the foe! O hear us, Baal!

No 12 RECITATIVE

Elijah: Call him louder; for he is a god! He talketh; or he is pursuing; or he is in a journey; or peradventure, he sleepeth; so awaken him; call him louder. [1 Kgs. 18:27]

CHORUS: Priests of Baal: Hear our cry, O Baal! now arise! wherefore slumber?

No 13 RECITATIVE

Elijah: Call him louder! he heareth not. With knives and lancets cut yourselves after your manner; leap upon the altar ye have made: call him, and prophesy! Not a voice will answer you; none will listen, none heed you. [1 Kgs. 18:28, 26, 29]

CHORUS

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

RECITATIVE

Elijah: Draw near, all ye people: come to me! [1 Kgs. 18:30]

No 14 AIR

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel! this day let it be known that Thou art God; and I am Thy servant! O show to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word! O hear me, Lord, and answer me; and show this people that Thou art Lord God; and let their hearts again be turned! [1 Kgs. 18:36, 37]

No 15 QUARTET

Angels: Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee. He never will suffer the righteous to fall; He is at thy right hand. [Ps. 55:22; Ps. 16:8]. Thy mercy, Lord, is great; and far above the heavens. [Ps. 108:4] Let none be made ashamed that wait upon Thee! [Ps.25:3]



No 16 RECITATIVE

Elijah: O Thou, who makest Thine angels spirits; — Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires: [Ps. 104:4] let them now descend!

CHORUS: The People: The fire descends from heaven; the flames consume his offering! Before Him upon your faces fall! The Lord is God! [1 Kgs. 18:38, 39] O Israel, hear our God is one Lord: [Dt. 6:4] and we will have no other Gods before the Lord! [Dt. 5:7]

RECITATIVE

Elijah: Take all the prophets of Baal; and let not one of them escape you: bring them down to Kishon's brook; and there let them be slain. [1 Kgs. 18:40]

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

No 17 AIR

Elijah: Is not His word like a fire; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? [Jer. 23:29]. For God is angry with the wicked every day; and if the wicked turn not, the Lord will whet His sword; and He hath bent His bow and made it ready. [Ps. 7:11, 12]

No 18 AIR (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. [Hosea 7:13]



No 19 RECITATIVE AND CHORUS

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. [Jer. 14:22]

Elijah: O Lord, Thou hast overthrown thine
enemies and destroyed them. Look down on
us from heaven, O Lord; regard the distress of
Thy people: open the heavens and send us
relief; help, help Thy servant now, O God! [2
Chron. 6:27]

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

Elijah: Go up now, child, and look toward the
sea. Hath my prayer been heard by the Lord?
[1 Kgs. 18:43]

The Youth: There is nothing! The heavens are
as brass above me! [Dt. 28:23]

Elijah: When the heavens are closed up
because they have sinned against Thee; yet if
they pray and confess Thy name, and turn
from their sin when Thou dost afflict them;
then hear from heaven, and forgive the sin!
Help, send Thy servant help, O God! [2 Chron.
6:26, 27]

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

Elijah: Go up again, and still look toward the
sea. [1 Kgs. 18:43]

The Youth: There is nothing. The earth is as
iron under me! [Dt. 28:23]

Elijah: Hearest thou no sound of rain? [1 Kgs.
18:41] — seest thou nothing arise from the
deep?

The Youth: No, there is nothing.

Elijah: Have respect unto the prayer of Thy
servant, O Lord my God! [2 Chron. 6:19]
Unto Thee will I cry, Lord, my rock; be not
silent to me; [Ps. 28:1] and Thy great mercies
remember, Lord!

The Youth: Behold, a little cloud ariseth now
from the waters; it is like a man's hand! The
heavens are black with clouds and with wind;
the storm rusheth louder and louder! [1 Kgs.
18:44, 45]

The People: Thanks be to God for all His
mercies! [Ps. 106:1]

Elijah: Thanks be to God, for He is gracious,
and His mercy endureth for evermore! [Ps.
106:1]

No 20 CHORUS

Thanks be to God! He laveth the thirsty land!
The waters gather; they rush along; they are
lifting their voices! [Ps. 93:3] The stormy
billows are high; their fury is mighty. But the
Lord is above them, and Almighty! [Ps. 93:4]

End of Part I



**There will now be a 15
minute interval.**



Part II



No 21 AIR

Hear ye, Israel; hear what the Lord speaketh: — Oh! hadst thou heeded my commandments! [Isaiah 48:1, 18] Who hath believed our report; to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? [Isa. 53:1] Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him oppressed by tyrants: thus saith the Lord: I am He that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee. [Isa. 41:10] Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die; and forgettest the Lord thy Maker, who hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the earth's foundations? [Isa. 51:12, 13] Be not afraid, for I, thy God will strengthen thee.

No 22 CHORUS

Be not afraid, saith God the Lord. Be not afraid, thy help is near. God, the Lord thy God, saith unto thee, Be not afraid! [Isa. 41:10] Though thousands languish and fall beside thee, and tens of thousands around thee perish; yet still it shall not come nigh thee. [Ps. 91:7]

No 23 RECITATIVE AND CHORUS

Elijah: The Lord hath exalted thee from among the people; and over his people Israel hath made thee king. [1 Kgs. 14:7] But thou, Ahab, hast done evil to provoke him to anger above all that were before thee: [1 Kgs. 16:30] as if it had been a light thing to walk in the sins of Jeroboam. Thou hast made a grove and an altar to Baal, and served him and worshipped him. [1 Kgs. 16:31, 32, 33] Thou hast killed the righteous, and also taken possession. [1 Kgs. 21:19] And the Lord shall smite all Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water; and He shall give Israel up, and thou shalt know He is the Lord. [1 Kgs. 14:15, 16]

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

Chorus: We heard it with our ears. [Jer. 26:11]

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? [Jer. 26:9] Doth Ahab govern the kingdom of Israel while Elijah's power is greater than the king's? [1 Kgs. 21:7]

The gods do so to me, and more; if by tomorrow about this time, I make not his life as the life of one of them whom he hath sacrificed at the Brook of Kishon! [1 Kgs. 19:2]

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. [Ecclesiasticus 48:3]

Chorus: He destroyed them all! as he hath done! [Jer. 26:11]

The Queen: He also closed the heavens!

Chorus: He also closed the heavens!

The Queen: And called down a famine upon the land. [Ecclus. 48:2]

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

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

No 25 RECITATIVE

Obadiah: Man of God, now let my words be precious in thy sight. [2 Kgs. 1:13] Thus saith Jezebel: Elijah is worthy to die! [Jer. 26:11] So the mighty gather against thee, [Ps. 59:3] and they have prepared a net for thy steps; [Ps. 57:6] that they may seize thee, that they may slay thee. Arise then, and hasten for thy life; to the wilderness journey. The Lord thy God doth go with thee: He will not fail thee, He will not forsake thee. [Dt. 31:6] Now be gone, and bless me also. [Ex. 12:32]

Elijah: Though stricken, they have not grieved! [Jer. 5:3] Tarry here my servant; the Lord be with thee. [1 Samuel 17:37] I journey hence to the wilderness. [1 Kgs. 19:4]

No 26 AIR

Elijah: It is enough, O Lord; now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers! [1 Kgs. 19:4] I desire to live no longer; now let me die, for my days are but vanity! [Job 7:16] I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have broken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away. [1 Kgs. 19:10]

No 27 RECITATIVE

See, now he sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness; [1 Kgs. 19:5] and there the angel of the Lord encampeth round about all them that fear Him. [Ps. 34:7]

No 28 TRIO

Angels: Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved; thy keeper will never slumber. [Ps. 121:1, 2, 3]

No 29 CHORUS

Angels: He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps. [Ps. 121:4] Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish; He will quicken thee. [Ps. 138:7]

No 30 RECITATIVE

An Angel: Arise, Elijah, for thou hast a long journey before thee. Forty days and forty nights shalt thou go; to Horeb, the mount of God. [1 Kgs. 19:7, 8]

Elijah: O Lord, I have laboured in vain; yea, I have spent my strength for naught, and in vain! [Isa. 49:4] O that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, that Thou wouldst come down; that the mountains would flow down at Thy presence, to make Thy name known to Thine adversaries; through the wonders of Thy works! [Isa. 64:1, 2] O Lord, why hast Thou made them to err from Thy ways, and hardened their hearts that they do not fear Thee? [Isa. 63:17] O that I now might die! [1 Kgs. 19:4]

No 31 AIR

O rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him; [Ps. 37:7] and He shall give thee thy heart's desires. [Ps. 37:4] Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him, [Ps. 37:5] and fret not thyself because of evildoers. [Ps. 37:1]

No 32 CHORUS

He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved. [Matthew 24:13]

No 33 RECITATIVE

Elijah: Night falleth round me, O Lord! Be not Thou far from me! [Ps. 22:19] hide not Thy face, O Lord, from me; my soul is thirsting for Thee, as a thirsty land. [Ps. 143:6]

An Angel: Arise now! get thee without, stand on the mount before the Lord; [1 Kgs. 19:11] for there His glory will appear and shine on thee; Thy face must be veiled, for He draweth near.



No 34 CHORUS

Behold! God the Lord passed by! And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, brake in pieces the rocks, brake them before the Lord; but yet the Lord was not in the tempest. [1 Kgs. 19:11] Behold! God the Lord passed by! And the sea was upheaved, and the earth was shaken; but yet the Lord was not in the earthquake. [1 Kgs. 19:11] And after the earthquake there came a fire; but yet the Lord was not in the fire. [1 Kgs. 19:12] And after the fire there came a still small voice; [1 Kgs. 19:12] and in that still voice, onward came the Lord.

No 35 RECITATIVE

Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another: [Isa. 6:2, 3]

QUARTET AND CHORUS

Angels: Holy, holy, holy is God the Lord — the Lord Sabaoth! Now His glory hath filled all the earth. [Isa. 6:3]

No 36 RECITATIVE

Elijah: I go on my way in the strength of the Lord. [Ps. 71:16] For Thou art my Lord; and I will suffer for Thy sake. [Ps. 16:2] My heart is therefore glad, my glory rejoiceth, and my flesh shall also rest in hope. [Ps. 16:9]

No 37 AIR

Elijah: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but thy kindness shall not depart from me, neither shall the covenant of Thy peace be removed. [Isa. 54:10]

No 38 CHORUS

Then did Elijah the prophet break forth like a fire; his words appeared like burning torches. [Ecclus. 48:1] Mighty kings by him were overthrown. [Ecclus. 48:6] He stood on the mount of Sinai, and heard the judgments of the future; and in Horeb, its vengeance. [Ecclus. 48:7] And when the Lord would take him away to heaven, [2 Kgs. 2:11] there came a fiery chariot, with fiery horses; and he went by a whirlwind to heaven. [2 Kgs. 2:11]

No 39 AIR

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father's realm. [Mt. 13:43] Joy on their head shall be for everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away for ever. [Isa. 51:11]

No 40 RECITATIVE

Behold, God hath sent Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children unto their fathers; lest the Lord shall come and smite the earth with a curse. [Malachi 4:5, 6]

No 42 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. [Isa. 58:8]

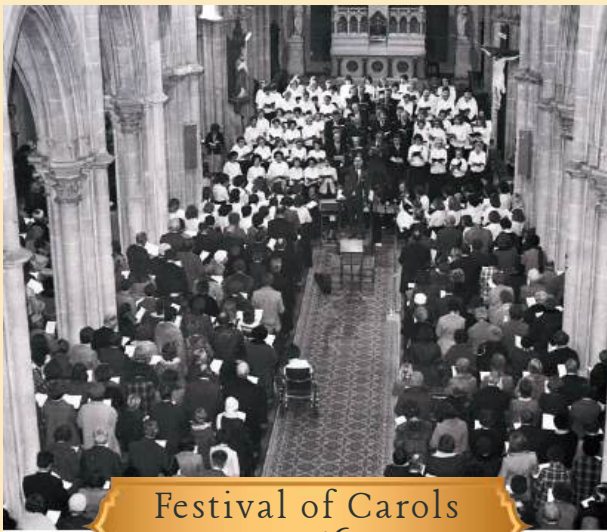
Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy Name is in all the nations! Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory. [Ps. 8:1] Amen!



70 years

Bringing Voices Together

The idea of the Jersey Festival Choir came from a conversation held in the summer of 1955 at a choral course in Canford. Jersey conductor and music teacher John Lobb secured the agreement of choral conductor Leslie Woodgate to come to Jersey to conduct Handel's 'Messiah' - if a large enough choir could be formed. There was no such choir in Jersey at the time.



Festival of Carols
1976

The Festival was repeated the following year and became a tradition; the Jersey Festival Choir had been formed!

A Landmark Performance

Four Island choirs therefore joined forces for the first 'Festival of Music' and a performance of 'Messiah' took place at Wesley-Grove on 29th May 1956. The Church was full and it was described as

“THE MOST OUTSTANDING
MUSICAL OCCASION IN
MEMORY”.



The Lobb Legacy

The first chorus master was Stanley Sackett, with John Lobb as the accompanist. John Lobb took over as conductor in 1960 and his sister, Amy Luce, became accompanist. Their brother Arthur was also involved and all three played vital roles in shaping Jersey's musical life. Upon John's death in 1980, Amy took over as conductor - with John's daughter, Rosemary Millow, accompanying. Amy was succeeded as musical director by Susan de Gruchy and then Elizabeth Farnon, whose mothers were both cousins to John, Arthur and Amy. In 2017, John Lobb's grandson, William Millow, became musical director.





A legacy in sound

In the 70 years of its existence, the Choir has become especially known for two key annual performances. A Spring concert at which oratorios and the 'big works' have been regularly performed - from Bach to Handel and more contemporary works - under the baton of distinguished guest conductors.

Over the years, the Choir has been led by conductors such as Sir Thomas Armstrong, Sir Anthony Lewis and Dr David Lumsden. In December each year, the Festival of Carols is held at St. Thomas' Church, with a collection taken for a local charity. Outside of these two annual events, the Choir has taken part in the Eisteddfod and many other community occasions, including the annual Liberation Day celebrations

The Music Goes On

The Jersey Festival Choir is indeed a community choir. Not only has it played an active part in the Island's community over seven decades, but it is a community within itself. It has never been an auditioned group; all that is required to join is a love of music and a singing and a wish to share that love with others. 70 years after that performance of 'Messiah' in 1956, the Choir continues that tradition.

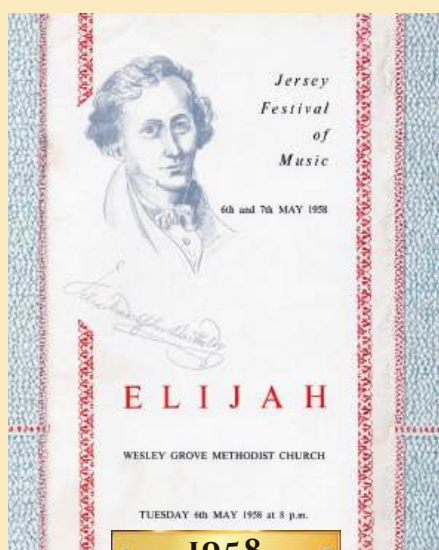


The Creation
2022

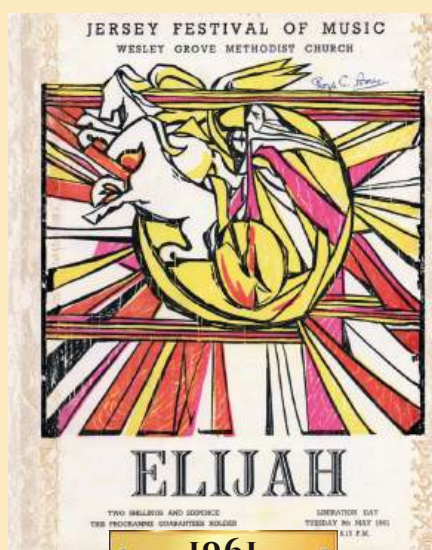
of Jersey Festival Choir

ELIJAH

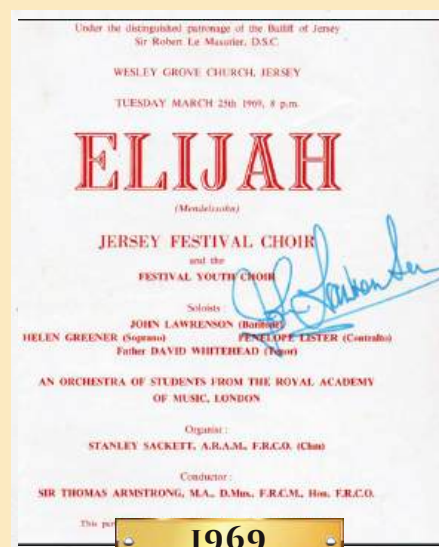
THROUGH THE YEARS WITH THE JERSEY FESTIVAL CHOIR



1958



1961

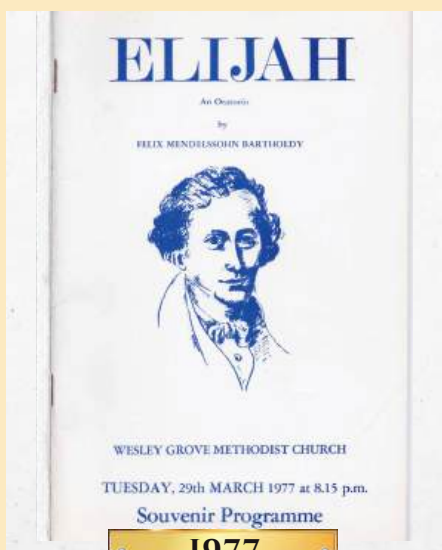


1969

A Returning Masterpiece

Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' has featured regularly throughout the Choir's history. This evening represents the seventh occasion on which the Choir has performed this great pillar of the repertoire. It was first performed in 1958 and you can see here the six previous programme covers, each marking a moment in the Choir's story. In 1961, the alto soloist was Janet Baker, later made Dame. In 1977, the soprano soloist was Lesley Garrett.

Local singers have also been to the fore. In 1961, tenor David Rayson became the first Jersey soloist to sing at the Spring concert, whilst in 1987 the role of Elijah was sung by Roy Picot.



1977



1987



2006

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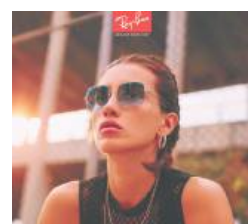
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For every island musician

JERSEY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

The Association was founded in January 2021 as a voice for the musical community in Jersey, in particular:



1. To foster communication between all those involved in music in Jersey.
2. To be a voice for the musical community in Jersey.
3. To engage with Government on all matters related to music in Jersey.
4. To support the development of music, musical opportunities and musicians in Jersey.
5. To build a positive framework for the future of music in Jersey.

Since it was formed the Association has attracted support from hundreds of performers, teachers, composers who live and work in Jersey.

Find out how you can get involved: www.jma.org.je

jerseymusicassociation@gmail.com

WITH THANKS TO...

The Jersey Festival Choir gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Josephine Baker Trust for the soloists in this evening's concert: Charlotte Jane Kennedy, Esmée Loughlin-Dickenson and Tom Law.

St Helier Methodist Centre

Jersey College Preparatory School

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