



Cirencester Choral Society
Conductor: Carleton Etherington

MENDELSSOHN



Elijah

Elizabeth MacDonald *soprano*

Judith Carder *alto*

Kevin Kyle *tenor*

William Armiger *bass*

Andrew Swait *treble*

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra

Leader: George Ewart

Saturday 14th May 2005

at 7.30 pm

CIRENCESTER PARISH CHURCH

*There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Parts I and II
during which wine and soft drinks will be available*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847) combined a prodigious talent for composition with virtuosity at piano, organ and strings and a sparkling career as a conductor. He gave his debut solo performance at the age of nine and many of his best known orchestral pieces were written in his teens and early twenties. He pioneered the notion that the conductor, rather than members of the ensemble, should interpret the work being performed, a development that proved somewhat controversial among the musicians under his direction! It is perhaps not surprising that he became one of the first conductors to arm himself with a baton!

Mendelssohn was a great admirer of Bach's music and in 1829 conducted the first public performance of the *St Matthew Passion* since the composer's death. The subsequent reawakening of interest in Bach's choral works that has lasted to this day is largely due to Mendelssohn and ranks alongside his own works in terms of his musical legacy. He also admired the music of Handel and Haydn, and performed their oratorios in Leipzig where he directed and conducted the Gewandhaus Orchestra. His love of this musical form found its way into his own composition, with *St Paul*, his first oratorio, completed in 1836. Its success prompted him to start working straight away on a second, with the life of the Old Testament prophet Elijah appealing to him as the subject for the new work. Initially, lack of a suitable librettist, or at least one who was prepared to bow to Mendelssohn's desire for drama ahead of spiritual guidance, left the project dormant for the best part of a decade.

Elijah and its performances

An invitation in 1845 to write a new oratorio for the 1846 Birmingham Festival rekindled the embryonic work, and, with the help of his librettist friend Pastor Julius Schubring, with whom he had previously disagreed on matters of style, *Elijah* was completed in time for the Festival in August 1846. Mendelssohn had conducted *St Paul* and *Hymn of Praise* in previous Festivals and his characteristic charm

and politeness had endeared him to many in England where he had become the most popular composer of the day. With such a groundswell of support, the performance was bound to be a success, and so it was, *The Times* writing of the occasion: "never was there a more complete triumph".

Among a handful of performances conducted by Mendelssohn before his untimely death in November 1847 were four by the Sacred Harmonic Society in London. At that time, the top line of the choir was augmented by the Children of the Chapel Royal, among whom was numbered the young Richard Mann who was later to become Cirencester Choral Society's second conductor. Having learned the work under Mendelssohn's baton, Mann was well prepared to conduct *Elijah* with Stroud Choral Society in 1868, but sadly died before he could introduce the work to Cirencester. That honour fell to Edward Brind, conducting the first performance by the Society in the Corn Hall in April 1882.

For a long period *Elijah* was hugely popular, second only to *Messiah*, and was widely and frequently performed. It was sung at the Three Choirs Festival every year from 1847 to 1930. However, Mendelssohn's works fell out of favour later in the 20th century as the oratorio style became less popular with audiences, perhaps in part due to over-familiarity. Indeed, *Elijah* virtually disappeared from the choral repertoire during this period. The most recent performance by Cirencester Choral Society was in 1968. It has been suggested, too, that sections of the musical establishment felt Mendelssohn's easy life had rendered his music superficial and inferior. Some semblance of balance seems now to have been restored between these superior attitudes and the uncritical acclaim of Mendelssohn's works in the 19th century.

The story of Elijah

The story of Elijah in Kings I and II, which forms the basis for the oratorio, recounts how Queen Jezebel, wife of King Ahab, had

introduced worship of the false god Baal to the Israelites. Elijah prophesies drought and famine as punishment while Obadiah urges the people to repent and return to worshipping Jehovah, the one true God. Elijah spends time in the desert where miracles are wrought to replenish a widow's food supply and restore life to her son. After three years, Elijah returns and challenges Ahab to prepare a sacrifice but not to have the fire lit under it. The priests of Baal are to invoke their god while Elijah will invoke the Lord to ignite the fire. Calls to Baal are in vain and Elijah mocks them. His own prayer to the Lord brings fire down from Heaven, and the people, seeing this, repent. Elijah then exhorts the now penitent Israelites to fall on the priests of Baal and kill them. He then prays three times for the drought to end and sends a young boy to the top of a hill to look out over the sea for rain. At the third time the rain comes, and the people rejoice. But Jezebel, seeking revenge, soon stirs up the people against Elijah again. Obadiah advises him to flee. Elijah, alone in the desert, is in despair over his mission and asks God to take his life, but angels come to comfort him and encourage him to make his way to Mount Horeb to await the Lord. As he waits on the mountain there is first a violent wind, then an earthquake and finally a raging fire, but the Lord is in none of them. He comes as a small, still voice, telling Elijah to return to Israel. Elijah returns to Israel, the years pass and, after Ahab has finally repented, God sends 'a fiery chariot with fiery, fiery horses' to take Elijah up to Heaven in a whirlwind.

Soloists

Elizabeth MacDonald (*soprano*) trained originally as an actress at the Birmingham Theatre School. She studied singing privately with Marjorie Thomas in London and then took a post-graduate course in vocal studies at the L.C.M. and a Masters in opera performance at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. She has performed operatic roles at home and abroad, singing in Prague and Dresden and recording a live broadcast from St Stephens Cathedral, Vienna. Elizabeth regularly sings with choirs and choral societies performing in oratorio and recitals, and combines her

singing career with bringing up two children and being a director and gift buyer for Mamble Craft Centre, Worcestershire.

Judith Carder (*alto*) was born and educated in Staffordshire. Following early training in piano and singing she taught music for several years before embarking on a singing career, studying with Brian Rayner Cook and Caroline Crawshaw. She is much in demand among choral societies throughout the country where her singing of the major oratorios has gained her a considerable reputation. Judith has worked with many leading conductors such as William Boughton, Donald Hunt and Ted Heath. On the recital platform, she has received much acclaim with her wide ranging choice of songs and thoughtfully prepared programmes.

Kevin Kyle (*tenor*) began his career in musical theatre, singing the role of Passarino in *The Phantom of the Opera*, before winning a scholarship to study opera at the Royal Academy of Music in 1999. While at the RAM, Kevin has received several awards and prizes. Last year he was a finalist in the Handel Singing Competition and made his Proms debut under the baton of Sir John Eliot Gardiner. He performs operatic and concert works extensively at home and overseas and, in addition to the traditional repertoire, enjoys performing new works, recording regularly for BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and BBC TV.

William Armiger (*Bass*) trained as a soloist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and gained his early singing experience with the choirs of the London cathedrals. At same time he embarked upon a career in teaching that was to lead him to the Headship of a Gloucester Grammar School, from which he took early retirement a few years ago. He has just retired as senior lay-clerk in the choir of Gloucester Cathedral and is resuming his work as soloist on the concert and recital platform. In addition to an extensive concert repertoire, William specialises in the performance of German lieder and the full spectrum of the English Art Song.

Andrew Swait (*treble*) sings in the choir of the Abbey School, Tewkesbury.

ELIJAH

AN ORATORIO

The Author of this English Version 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.

FIRST PART

INTRODUCTION (Bass)

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 86:1,6t]

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

No 3 RECITATIVE (Tenor)

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*1]

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. 28:15t; 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 (Alto)

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. 17:3-5t]

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 (Alto)

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. 17:7,9,14)

No 8 RECITATIVE AND AIR

(Soprano) *The Widow* What have I to do with thee, O man of God? art thou come to me, to call my sin unto remembrance? - to slay my son art thou come hither? [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] I go mourning all the day long; [Ps. 38:6] I lie down and weep at night. [Ps. 6:6] See mine affliction. (Job 10:15) Be thou the orphan's helper! [Ps. 10:14]

RECITATIVE

Elijah Give me thy son. [1 Kgs. 17:19t]

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. 86:16,15] 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*1]

Both Thou shall 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 (he 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. 18:17t]

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,t 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 Gall 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; [Ps. 55:22] He is at thy right hand, [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.6:4t] and we will have no other Gods before the Lord! [Dt. 5:7t]

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

(Tenor)

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 Chronicles 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]

SECOND PART

No 21 AIR (Soprano)

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: [Isa. 49:7] 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 Jereboam. 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 shall 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!

Chorus He destroyed them all!

The Queen He also closed the heavens! [Ecclesiasticus 48:3]

Chorus He also closed the heavens!

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

Chorus And called down a famine upon the land.

The Queen So go ye forth and seize Elijah, for he is worthy to die; [Jer. 26:11] slaughter him! do unto him as he hath done!

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. 57:6f] 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 begone, 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. 19:4f] 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 lie sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness: [1 Kgs. 19:11] 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. 121:1,23f]

No 29 CHORUS

Angels He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps. [Ps. 121:4f] 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 shall thou go; to Horeb, the mount of God. [1 Kgs. 19:7,8f]

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. 37:5f] 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! [J>s. 22:19f] hide not Thy face, O Lord, from me; my soul is thirsting for Thee, as a thirsty land. [Ps. 143:7,6]

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, [1 Kgs. 19:13f] 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. 19:12f] and in that still voice, onward came the Lord.

No 35 RECITATIVE

Above Him stood the Seraphim, and one cried to another: [Isa. 6:23]

QUARTET AND CHORUS

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

No 36 RECITATIVE AND CHORUS

Chorus Go, return upon thy way! [1 Kgs. 19:15] For the Lord hath yet left Him seven thousand in Israel, knees which have not bowed to Baal: [1 Kgs. 19:18] go, return upon thy way; thus the Lord commandeth.

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.
48:1] He stood on the mount of
Sinai, and heard the judgements
of the future; and in Horeb, its
vengeance. [Ecclus. 48:7]

And when the Lord would take
him away to heaven, [2 Kgs. 2:1] lo!
there came a fiery chariot, with fiery
horses; and he went by a
whirlwind to heaven. [2 Kgs. 2:11]

No 39 AIR (Tenor)

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 41 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. [Isa.
41:25]

Behold my servant and mine elect,
in whom my soul delighteth! [Isa.
42:1] 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! [Isa. 55:13]

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!

**Note that Ecclus. refers to
Ecclesiasticus (in the Apocrypha),
not Ecclesiastes, as given by
Bartholomew.**

Lord. [Isa. 11:2]

Carleton Etherington (*conductor*)

Carleton Etherington was appointed Conductor of Cirencester Choral Society in January of this year – tonight's concert is his first with the Society. Since 1996 he has been Organist of Tewkesbury Abbey where his duties include the direction of the Abbey Choir and accompanying the Choir of the Abbey School. Educated at Chetham's School of Music, Manchester and the Royal Academy of Music, London, he studied organ with Dr Peter Hurford and David Sanger. After graduating from London University he pursued post-graduate study at the Academy, and was subsequently awarded the Recital Diploma. In 1992 he won first prize at the Paisley International Organ Competition and the following year won the Royal College of Organists' "Performer of the Year" competition, held in London. Since then he has travelled widely, performing throughout Europe, Australia and the USA. He has broadcast on BBC radio many times (including a live relay from Birmingham's Symphony Hall) and has made several CD recordings, which have received considerable critical acclaim. "...leaves the listener thrilled by the experience of hearing this repertoire played by such a master organist on a masterpiece of an organ." (*Organists' Review*). Carleton is also Conductor of Bromsgrove Choral Society, Chairman of the Gloucestershire Organists' Association and a Council Member of the Royal College of Organists.

Cirencester Choral Society gratefully acknowledges the permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens for the use of the church and the help of the Tourist Information Office in providing box office facilities.

***The Society's next concert will be on Saturday 10th December 2005
in Cirencester Parish Church and will include performances of
Beethoven's Mass in C and Haydn's Te Deum.***

The Society is a non-audition choir and welcomes new members in all voices.
If you are interested in joining, telephone the Membership Secretary, Sheila Snelgrove, on 01285 657103 or come to a rehearsal. These are held at St Peter's Hall, St Peter's Road, Cirencester on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 – 9:30pm.
Rehearsals for the December 2005 concert begin on Tuesday 6th September.

Please visit our web site:

www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk

**The Society is affiliated to the
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