

Norfield Congregational Church  
Nytvedt Concert Series

*presents*

# Weston Summer Chorus

## ELIJAH *Felix Mendelssohn*

Ellen Dickinson, *conductor*

David Connell, *pianist*  
Timothy Andres, *pianist*

Jennifer Barron, *soprano*  
Jeremy Hetzler, *tenor*  
Colin Brady, *baritone*

Thursday, August 2, 2007  
7:30 p.m.

# ELIJAH

*Felix Mendelssohn*  
(1809–1847)

## *Introduction*

### *Overture*

1. *Chorus.* Help, Lord!
2. *Ensemble and chorus.* Lord, bow thine ear to our prayer  
Tracy Anderson, Shelby Miller, Ina Montelius, Katherine Sementini, Jo Shute
3. *Recitative.* Ye people, rend your hearts!
4. *Aria.* If with all your hearts
5. *Chorus.* Yet doth the Lord see it not
6. *Recitative.* Elijah, get thee hence  
Allan Wieman, *baritone*
7. *Chorus.* For He shall give His angels
- 7a. *Recitative.* Now Cherith's brook  
Allan Wieman, *baritone*
8. *Recitative, aria, duet.* What have I to do with thee
9. *Chorus.* Blessed are the men who fear Him
10. *Recitative with chorus.* As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth
11. *Chorus.* Baal, we cry to thee!
12. *Recitative with chorus.* Call him louder! For he is a god
13. *Recitative with chorus.* Call him louder! He heareth not
14. *Aria.* Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel
15. *Chorus.* Cast thy burden upon the Lord
16. *Recitative and chorus.* O Thou who makest thine angels spirits
17. *Aria.* Is not His word like a fire?
18. *Recitative with chorus.* O man of God, help thy people
19. *Recitative and chorus.* Thou hast overthrown thine enemies  
Shelby Miller, *soprano*
20. *Chorus.* Thanks be to God

## *Intermission*

21. *Aria.* Hear ye, Israel!
22. *Chorus.* Be not afraid, saith God the Lord
23. *Recitative.* Man of God
24. *Aria.* It is enough!
25. *Recitative.* See, now he sleepeth
26. *Trio.* Lift thine eyes
27. *Chorus.* He, watching over Israel
28. *Recitative.* Night falleth round me
29. *Chorus.* Behold, God the Lord passed by
30. *Chorus and recitative.* Go, return upon thy way
31. *Arioso.* For the mountains shall depart
32. *Aria.* Then shall the righteous shine forth
33. *Chorus.* And then shall your light break forth

*The piano being performed on is a Yamaha Grand Piano and has been provided through Yamaha Artist Services at Westport-Fairfield Piano & Organ of Fairfield, Connecticut, 800-742-6618.*

# Mendelssohn ELIJAH

## 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.

### Overture

1. *Chorus:* Help, Lord! Wilt Thou quite destroy us!  
The harvest now is over, the summer days are gone, and yet no power cometh to help us!  
Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion?  
The deep affords no water, and the rivers are exhausted!  
The suckling's tongue now cleaveth for thirst to his mouth;  
The infant children ask for bread, and there is no one breaketh it to feed them
2. *Duet with Chorus:* Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer.  
Zion spreadeth her hands for aid, and there is neither help nor comfort.
3. *Obadiab:* Ye people, rend your hearts and not your garments for your transgressions  
The prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God.  
I therefore say to ye, forsake your idols, return to God;  
For He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil.
4. *Obadiab:* "If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me, ye shall ever surely find Me." Thus saith our God.  
Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence!
5. *Chorus:* Yet doth the Lord see it not; He mocketh at us; His curse hath fallen down upon us;  
His wrath will pursue us till He destroy us.  
For He, the Lord our God, He is a jealous God, and He visiteth all the fathers' sins  
On the children to the third and the fourth generation of them that hate Him.  
His mercies on thousands fall, on all them that love him and keep his commandments.
6. *An Angel:* Elijah! Get thee hence, Elijah! Depart and turn thee eastward:  
Thither hide thee by Cherith's brook. There shalt thou drink its waters;  
And the Lord thy God hath commanded the ravens to feed thee there:  
So do according unto His word.
7. *Chorus.* 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.
- 7A. *Recitative.* Now Cherith's brook is dried up, Elijah; Arise and depart, and get thee to Zerepath;  
Thither abide; For the Lord hath commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee;  
And the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail,  
Until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.
8. *Recitative, duet.*  
*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?  
Help me, man of God, my son is sick! And his sickness is so sore that there is no breath left in him!  
I go mourning all the day long, I lie down and weep at night!  
See mine affliction! Be thou the orphan's helper!  
Help my son! There is no breath left in him!  
*Elijah:* Give me thy son. Turn unto her, O Lord, my God!  
On turn in mercy, 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.

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

*Widow:* Shall the dead arise and praise thee?

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

*Widow:* The Lord hath heard thy prayer; The soul of my son reviveth!

*Elijah:* Now 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...

*Duet:* With all my soul and with all my might. O, blessed are they who fear Him!

9. *Chorus:* Blessed are the men who fear Him, they ever walk in the ways of peace.

Through darkness riseth light, light to the upright. He is gracious, compassionate; He is righteous.

10. *Elijah:* As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth, before whom I stand; three years this day fulfilled,

I will shew myself unto Ahab; and the Lord will then send rain again upon the earth.

*Ahab:* Art thou Elijah? Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

*Chorus:* Thou art Elijah, thou he that troubleth Israel!

*Elijah:* I never troubled Israel's peace: it is thou, Ahab, and all thy father's house.

Ye have forsaken God's commands; and thou hast follow'd Baalim!

Now send, and gather to me the whole of Israel unto Mount Carmel;

There summon the prophets of Baal, and also the prophets of the groves

Who are house feasted at Jezebel's table. Then, then we shall see whose God is the Lord.

*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.

*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.

11. *Chorus:* Baal, we cry to thee; hear and answer us! Heed the sacrifice we offer!

Hear us, Baal! Hear, mighty god! Baal, oh answer us! Baal, let thy flames fall and extirpate the foe!

12. *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, call him louder!

*Chorus:* Hear our cry, o Baal, now arise! Wherefore slumber?

13. *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.

*Chorus:* Baal! Baal! Hear and answer, Baal! Mark how the scorner derideth us!

*Elijah:* Draw near, all ye people, come to me!

14. *Elijah:* Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel; this day let it be known that Thou art God,

And I am Thy servant! Lord God of Abraham!

Oh shew to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word!

Oh hear me, Lord, and answer me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,

Oh hear me and answer me, and shew this people that Thou art Lord God.

And let their hearts again be turned!

15. *Chorus:* Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.

He never will suffer the righteous to fall; He is at thy right hand.

Thy mercy, Lord, is great, and far above the heavens.

Let none be made ashamed, that wait upon Thee!

16. *Elijah:* O Thou, who makest thine angels spirits;

Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires: let them now descend!

*Chorus:* The fire descends from heaven! The flames consume his offering! Before Him upon your faces fall!  
The Lord is God, 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.

*Chorus:* Take all the prophets of Baal and let not one of them escape us: bring all and slay them!

17. *Elijah:* Is not His word like a fire? And like a hammer that breaketh the rock into pieces?  
For God is angry with the wicked every day;  
And if the wicked turn not, the Lord will whet His sword;  
And He hath bent His bow, and made it ready.

18. *Obadiab:* 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.

19. *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!

*Chorus:* 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?

*Youth:* There is nothing. The heavens are as brass, they 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 heaven, and forgive the sin. Help, send Thy servant help, O God!

*Chorus:* 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.

*Youth:* There is nothing. The earth is as iron under me.

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

*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 cloud and with wind: The storm rusheth louder and louder!

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

*Elijah:* Thanks be to God! For He is gracious; and His mercy endureth for evermore!

20. *Chorus:* Thanks be to God! He laveth the thirsty land.  
The waters gather, they rush along! They are lifting their voices!  
The stormy billows are high, their fury is mighty. But the Lord is above them and Almighty.

## PART II

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

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!"  
Though thousands languish and fall beside thee, and tens of thousands around thee perish,  
Yet still it shall not come nigh thee.

23. *Obadiab*: Man of God, now let my words be precious in thy sight!  
 Thus saith Jezebel: "Elijah is worthy to die." So the mighty gather against thee,  
 And they have prepared a net for thy steps; that they may seize thee, that they may slay thee.  
 Arise then, and hasten for thy life! to the wilderness journey!  
 The Lord thy God doth go with thee: He will not fail thee, He will not forsake thee.  
 Now begone, and bless me also!
- Elijah*: Though stricken, they have not grieved.  
 Tarry here my servant: the Lord be with thee. I journey hence to the wilderness.
24. *Elijah*: It is enough! O Lord, now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers!  
 I desire to live no longer; now let me die, for my days are but vanity!  
 I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts,  
 For the children of Israel have broken Thy covenant, and thrown down Thine altars,  
 And slain all Thy prophets, slain them with the sword.  
 I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts,  
 And I, even I, only am left: and they seek my life to take it away! It is enough!  
 It is enough. O Lord, now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers!  
 Now let me die, Lord, take away my life!
25. *Tenor*: See, now he sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness!  
 And there the angels of the Lord encamp round about all them that fear Him.
26. *Angels*: Lift thine eyes, O 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.
27. *Chorus*: He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.  
 Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee.
28. *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.
29. *Chorus*: Behold, God the Lord passed by!  
 And a mighty wind rent the mountains around, Brake in pieces the rocks, brake them before the Lord.  
 But yet the Lord was not in the tempest. Behold, God the Lord passed by!  
 And the sea was upheaved, and the earth was shaken. But yet the Lord was not in the earthquake.  
 And after the earthquake there came a fire. But yet the Lord was not in the fire.  
 And after the fire there came a still small voice. And in that still voice onward came the Lord.
30. *Chorus*: Go, return upon thy way! For the Lord yet hath left Him seven thousand in Israel,  
 Knees which have not bowed to Baal. Go, return upon thy way! Thus the Lord commandeth.
- Elijah*: I go on my way in the strength of the Lord, For Thou art my Lord; and I will suffer for Thy sake.  
 My heart is therefore glad, my glory rejoiceth; and my flesh shall also rest in hope.
31. *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.
32. *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.
33. *Chorus*: And then, then shall your light break forth as the light of morning breaketh,  
 And your health shall speedily spring forth then;  
 And the glory of the Lord ever shall reward you.  
 Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy Name is in all the nations!  
 Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory. Amen.

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# The Weston Summer Chorus 2007

## **Soprano**

Tracy Anderson  
Nancy Brant  
Diana Herstatt  
Barbara Hudson  
Doris Kaye  
Jeannette LaForte  
Susan Lyons  
Shelby Miller  
Ina Montelius  
Betsy Ready  
Patricia Scharr  
Catherine Sementini  
Pat Sidas  
Joan Stietzel

## **Tenor**

Kathy Apy  
Tom Buckley  
Steve Evans  
Jeremy Hetzler  
Judith Hunt  
Chris O'Neill  
Paul Retter  
Carole-Lee Simone

## **Alto**

Lois Bechtel  
Jo Boynton  
Elfie Brandon  
Ann Marie Carney  
Debbie Handler  
Charlotte Hanulik  
Lisette Henry  
Lisa Krajcik  
Susan Jordan  
Wendy Levy  
Zayne McFarlane  
Karen Moraitis  
Jean Reed  
Jo Shute  
Peg Ulrich  
Cindy Vail  
Holly Wheeler

## **Bass**

Roy Byrd  
Malcolm Dickinson  
Alex Handler  
Harry Kent  
Ryan Krajcik  
Jim Miller  
Shingo Nara  
Allan Wieman

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**The orchestration** for two pianos is by David H. Connell, Artist-in-Residence at Norfield Congregational Church.