



CONDUCTED BY ALBERTO MASSIMO

**MENDELSSOHN'S
ELIJAH**

WITH SOLOISTS AND SMALL ORCHESTRA

Saturday 27th May 2023

Dunbar Parish Church

Message from our President

On behalf of Dunbar Choral Society can I welcome you all to this our Spring Concert. It has been a long haul for everyone to get back on track after the lockdowns and other limitations imposed by the pandemic and we have been no exception to that. With commitment and determination to get singing again the Choral under their Director, Maestro Massimo, have undertaken the not inconsiderable challenge of the music of Elijah by Felix Mendelssohn. Though now not sung as often as when a favourite with choirs in times past it is full of striking and engaging music.

We are so appreciative of all our supporters whose encouragement means so much to the Choir members and we wish all an enjoyable and uplifting evening.

John Cairns
President Dunbar Choral Society



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Dunbar Choral

Elijah

Mendelssohn

Conductor and Musical Director

Alberto Massimo

Soloists

Paul Grant (Baritone)

Elijah

Christopher Hobkirk (Tenor)

Obadiah, King Ahab and an Angel.

Olivia Massimo (Soprano)

The Youth and the Widow

Organist

Carlo Massimo

Dunbar Choral Orchestra

Leader: Kathy Garrison

Program Notes by Sanford Dole

Felix Mendelssohn was born into a wealthy and cultured family during a time of rapid cultural change for the Jewish people of Germany. His grandfather, Moses Mendelssohn, was a renowned philosopher of the Enlightenment who encouraged liberal thought. In fact, he had changed his name from Mendel Dessau to Mendelssohn as an act of assimilation. His son Abraham, Felix's father, was a successful banker who added Bartholdy to the family name (after the former owners of a garden site that his mother had purchased), converted to Protestantism, and baptized all four of his children. Felix became a committed Lutheran but remained proud of his Jewish heritage.

Felix and his older sister, Fanny, began taking piano lessons at home from their mother, and both showed early promise as gifted musicians. They were sent to Paris to study piano and the works of Mozart and Bach. Felix became so skilled that he gained a reputation as the second Mozart. By his mid-teens he was already composing mature works, including 12 string symphonies, the rapturous Octet for Strings and the Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. After completing his studies at the University of Berlin, Mendelssohn travelled and performed throughout Europe.

Mendelssohn loved the choral works of Bach and Handel. He famously presented J. S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at the Leipzig Gewandhaus when he was 20, thereby rescuing the work of the great master from obscurity. Thus, when he received a commission for an oratorio in 1831, he leapt at the opportunity. The result was *St. Paul*, which premiered in Düsseldorf in 1836, followed by performances the following year in Liverpool, London, and Birmingham, sung in English. He was eager to repeat the success of *St. Paul* and planned for an oratorio on the subject of the Old Testament prophet Elijah. But he was too busy to work on it until he received a commission from the Birmingham Festival in 1845 to compose a new oratorio.

The Old Testament story resonated deeply with Mendelssohn. The life of the prophet Elijah epitomized the evolution of Jewish faith from worship of the Babylonian pantheon of idols and myths to worshipping one monotheistic God. He saw the drama in the story as perfect for musical storytelling. Mendelssohn again turned to his *St. Paul* librettist, Julius Schubring, a Lutheran minister and family friend, to prepare the libretto, combining the story of Elijah as told in the Book of Kings with other biblical texts. The two disagreed, however, on the approach to take. Mendelssohn wanted to emphasize the dramatic content of the story, while Schubring saw it as an opportunity for Christian theology and moral lessons. Mendelssohn continually sent the libretto back for revision, requesting specific scenes and texts to be set. Eventually a satisfactory libretto was constructed. Mendelssohn engaged his friend William Bartholomew to prepare the English translation, and worked closely with him, fine-tuning the exact wording and adjusting the music to conform to the English text. Mendelssohn worked feverishly on the score, finally completing it in mid-August of 1846, only two weeks before the scheduled premiere. After frenzied rehearsals, Mendelssohn conducted the premiere in Birmingham

on August 26, 1846. The work was an immediate success, with thunderous applause and no less than four choruses and four arias encored. The ever-critical Mendelssohn immediately began a series of revisions, and he performed the revised version in England in the spring of 1847. Sadly, Elijah was to be the composer's last large-scale work. Exhausted by an extremely rigorous concert schedule and the demands of preparing the Elijah score for publication—and disconsolate over the unexpected death earlier that year of his beloved sister, Fanny—Mendelssohn suffered a series of strokes and died on November 4, 1847, at the age of thirty-eight.

Synopsis of the story of Elijah

Part I

Elijah tells of several key incidents in the life of the 9th century BCE prophet. In Part I, God brings on a drought because of Israel's faithlessness, Elijah proves that his God is the true and only one, and rain returns to the parched land.

The action starts immediately as Elijah announces the curse, vividly painted by a series of descending tritones. Then a turbulent orchestral overture depicts this tragedy. In the ensuing chorus ("Help Lord!") the people beg again and again for God's help. The soprano and alto soloists sing a plaintive melody, "Zion spreadeth her hands for aid," in alternation with the chorus's plea "Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer." After a recitative and aria ("If with all your hearts"), sung by Elijah's friend, Obadiah, the people bemoan God's jealous wrath ("Yet doth the Lord see it not"). Then, as the harmonies shift from minor to major, they praise His forgiveness.

The next scene begins with a restatement of the declamatory music of the introduction. Elijah stands accused of causing Israel's troubles. He responds that the people have brought their problems upon themselves by worshipping false gods. Elijah challenges the priests of the god Baal to a duel of the Gods, in which each is to prepare a sacrifice and pray to their respective deities to ignite the fire beneath it. The Baalists go first ("Baal, we cry to thee"). Baal's failure to respond is depicted by dramatic silences. Elijah mockingly demands that the priests pray louder. The chorus again implores their god ("Hear and answer Baal"), but still there is no answer. When Baal fails to light the fire, Elijah exhorts the people of Israel to turn their prayers to the one true God: "Draw near, all ye people, come to me!" In response, God sends fire ("The fire descends from heaven!") to consume the sacrifice, and the scene ends with Elijah ordering the priests of Baal slain.

An alto reproaches those who have forsaken God: "Woe unto them who forsake Him!" Elijah turns away from the bloodbath to join the people in praying to God to end the drought: "Open the heavens and send us relief." Three times he sends a youth to see if rain clouds have appeared. Three times there are none. Finally the child sees a little cloud in the distance—the rains have come at last. By denouncing false gods and accepting the one true God, the people of Israel have been saved. In the final chorus of Part I the people sing thanks to the one Lord: "Thanks be to God, He laveth the thirsty land."

Part II

The second half of the oratorio alternates scenes that further the plot with those that present Bible passages, including sayings of the prophet. Elijah flees to the wilderness, resigned to the failure of his mission, but his spirit and strength are restored by the appearance of God, and he ascends into heaven.

Part II opens with a soprano aria of comfort and dignity, “Hear ye, Israel!” This is followed by the chorus expressing similar sentiments, “Be not afraid.” The story continues when Elijah appears before King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Elijah accuses the king of having angered God by worshiping Baal.

The prophet’s friend Obadiah tells him to flee for his life. Elijah goes into the wilderness, where he longs for death. The aria “It is enough,” a direct reference to “Es ist vollbracht” from Bach’s St. John Passion, portrays his despondency with a poignant melody accompanied by a cello. The prophet’s anger at the people of Israel flares up, but his despair returns. An unaccompanied chorus of women portrays angels comforting the prophet, “Lift thine eyes,” followed by the full chorus, “He watching over Israel.”

An angel (alto) summons Elijah to arise and journey 40 days to Mount Horeb, where the Lord will reveal himself. In the emotional climax of the oratorio, Elijah cries out that all of his efforts have been in vain. He has failed to make the people of Israel accept God. Elijah’s faith falters, as he asks God why He created His own adversaries and hardened their hearts against Him. The angel returns to comfort Elijah, telling him again and again in a beautiful aria, “O rest in the Lord,” to wait for God and not be concerned with evildoers. The final time, the alto lingers on the word “wait,” thus symbolically indicating that Elijah’s one remaining task is his hardest: to be patient

The appearance of the Lord (“Behold God the Lord passed by”) is heralded with music that vividly depicts first a tempest, then an earthquake, and finally fire—in none of which can God be found. Rather, He is in a “still, small voice” accompanied by string arpeggios. A chorus of angels sings of the holiness of God and directs Elijah to “Go, return upon thy way.” Elijah accepts God. He has waited for the Lord and receives his peace: “Thy kindness shall not depart from me, neither shall the covenant of Thy peace be removed.” The chorus then sings of Elijah’s ascent into heaven.

Here ends the story of Elijah. Mendelssohn had originally intended to bring the oratorio to a close here as well, but Schubring convinced him to add an aria, “Then shall the righteous shine forth,” a recitative, and choruses that do not bear directly on the personality of Elijah. The last of these, “And then shall your light break forth,” which glorifies God, is a brilliant fugue that forms a powerful conclusion to this massive work.

Part 1

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

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! Will then the Lord be no more God in Zion?

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!

DUET AND CHORUS

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

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.

AIR

Obadiah 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.

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. 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.

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.

RECITATIVE AND AIR

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? 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!

RECITATIVE

Elijah Give me thy son. Turn unto her, O Lord my God; in mercy help this widow's son! For Thou art gracious, and full of compassion, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Lord my God, O let the spirit of this child return, that he again may live.

The Widow Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee?

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!

Elijah Now behold, thy son liveth!

The 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?

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

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

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.

Ahab Art thou Elijah? he that troubleth Israel!

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! 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.

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.

CHORUS

Priests of Baal Baal, we cry to thee; hear and answer us! Heed the sacrifice we offer! hear us, O hear us, Baal! Hear, mighty god! Baal, O answer us! Let thy flames fall and extirpate the foe! O hear us, Baal!

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.

CHORUS

Priests of Baal Hear our cry, O Baal! Now arise! wherefore slumber?

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.

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!

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!

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.
Thy mercy, Lord, is great; and far above the heavens. Let none be made ashamed that wait upon Thee!

RECITATIVE

Elijah O Thou, who makest Thine angels spirits; — Thou, whose ministers are flaming fires; 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: O Israel, hear! Our God is one Lord: and we will have no other Gods before the Lord!

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.

CHORUS

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

AIR

Elijah Is not His word like a fire: and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in 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.

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.

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!

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?

The Youth There is nothing. The heavens 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!

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.

The 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?

The Youth No, there is nothing.

Elijah Have respect unto 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!

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!

The People Thanks be to God for all His mercies!

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

CHORUS

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

Interval

Complimentary wine and soft drinks will be available in the foyer.

Part 2

AIR

Hear ye, Israel; hear what the Lord speaketh: — "Oh hadst thou heeded my commandments!"

Who hath believed our report; to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him oppressed by tyrants: thus saith the Lord: — I am He that comforteth; be not afraid, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee. Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die; and forgettest the Lord thy Maker, who hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the earth's foundations? Be not afraid, for I, thy God will strengthen thee.

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

RECITATIVE AND CHORUS

Elijah The Lord hath exalted thee from among the people: and over his people Israel hath made thee king. But thou, Ahab, hast done evil to provoke him to anger above all that were before thee: as if it had been a light thing to walk in the sins of Jereboam. Thou hast made a grove and an altar to Baal, and served him and worshipped him. Thou hast killed the righteous, and also taken possession.

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

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 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.

AIR

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, 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.

RECITATIVE See, now he sleepeth beneath a juniper tree in the wilderness: and there the angel of the Lord encampeth round about all them that fear Him.

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.

CHORUS

Angels He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish; He will quicken thee.

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.

Elijah O Lord, I have laboured in vain; yea, I have spent my strength for naught, and in vain!

O that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, that Thou wouldst come down; that the mountains would flow down at Thy presence, to make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, through the wonders of Thy works!

O Lord, why hast Thou made them to err- from Thy ways, and hardened their hearts that they do not fear Thee? O that I now might die!

AIR

Angels 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.

RECITATIVE

Elijah Night falleth round me, O Lord! Be not Thou far from me! hide not Thy face, O Lord, from me; my soul is thirsting for Thee, as a thirsty land.

An 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.

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.

RECITATIVE AND CHORUS

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

RECITATIVE

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.

CHORUS

Then did Elijah the prophet break forth like a fire; his words appeared like burning torches. Mighty kings by him were overthrown. He stood on the mount of Sinai, and heard the judgements of the future; and in Horeb, its vengeance.

And when the Lord would take him away to heaven, lo! there came a fiery chariot, with fiery horses; and he went by a whirlwind to heaven.

AIR

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father's realm. Joy on their head shall be for everlasting, and all sorrow and mourning shall flee away for ever.

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.

Lord, our Creator, how excellent Thy Name is in all the nations! Thou fillest heaven with Thy glory.

Amen!

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Alberto Massimo – Conductor

Alberto Massimo graduated with a B.Mus in organ, trumpet, double bass and composition. Specialising in conducting, he attended courses in Vienna, Salzburg, at the Academia Chigiana in Sienna and the Santa Cecilia conservatory in Rome, studying with Gianandrea Gavazzeni, Ferdinand Leitner, Carlo Maria Giulini, Franco Ferrara and finally Leonard Bernstein. In Rome, he received his degree as Maestro after the ten year course, and received appointments as Organist and Choirmaster, notably at the Basilica di Santa Cecilia, where the Patron Saint of Music is buried.

After further postgraduate studies at the Academia Barocca di Roma with Rinaldo Alessandrini in harpsichord and basso continuo, Alberto came to Edinburgh on an Italian government grant and obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Music from the University of Edinburgh. He has held a number of posts in the city and is currently the Director of Music at Greenbank Parish Church and he has been the Conductor of the Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra for over thirty years. Alberto is also a Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and hosts the popular Sunday night radio programme Music Maestro Please on East Coast fm, which because of its app, is listened to right round the world.

Maestro Alberto Massimo was appointed Music Director of the Dunbar Choral in 2021.

Paul Grant

British baritone Paul Grant is a recent graduate of the Accademia Teatro alla Scala in Milan, only the programme's second British singer ever. He has since returned to La Scala for performances of Ariadne auf Naxos as Ein Perückenmacher and Adés The Tempest as Sebastian. During his time in the Accademia, he performed on the main stage as Grégorio Roméo et Juliette, Ein Kappadozier Salome, and Dandini for their children's performances of La Cenerentola, alongside appearances at Bolzano Festival and Lausitz Festival.

Other performance highlights include Handel's Messiah conducted by Sir James MacMillan, Brahms Ein Deutesches Requiem with the RTVE Symphony Orchestra, a gala concert at Victoria Hall, Geneva, recitals in Japan, The Queen's Gallery Buckingham Palace, Wigmore Hall, and the Leeds Lieder and Oxford Lieder Festivals. Upcoming engagements include his debut at the Edinburgh International Festival and Royal Scottish National Orchestra with Duruflé's Requiem.

Recent operatic performances include Il Conte d'Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House Muscat, Oman, Smirnov in Walton's *The Bear* at the Lericci Music Festival and Teatro dell'Opera Giocosa, Le Podestat in Bizet's *Le Docteur Miracle* with L'orchestra de Chambre de Genève and, with Royal Academy Opera, Robert in Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*, and Minsk Man in Jonathan Dove's *Flight*.

Grant was born in Edinburgh and studied with Glenville Hargreaves and Jonathan Papp at the Royal Academy of Music where he was a member of the Academy Song Circle and was a soloist for the RAM/Kohn Foundation Bach Cantata Series. He was a Britten Pears Young Artist, a Samling Artist and is an alumnus of the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto. He won the 2018 Richard Lewis/Jean Shanks Award and in the 2018/19 season was an Alvarez Young Artist at Garsington Opera.

Christopher Hobkirk

Christopher received his early musical education at St. Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, becoming the Head Chorister and then Cathedral Organ Scholar. He studied singing at the RSAMD in Glasgow and was a Foundation Scholar at the RCM in London with Neil Mackie.

He has sung as a soloist with chamber orchestras throughout Europe, mostly in Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Spain and performed with renowned conductors including Georg Solti, Riccardo Chailly, Bernard Haitink and Simon Rattle, specialising in the works of Bach and Britten, particularly the *Serenade for Tenor Horn and Strings*. He has performed Evangelist roles in Passions by Bach, Handel, Telemann and Schütz in Norway, the Netherlands, Germany and throughout Britain. As well as appearing at many of the major European concert venues, he has appeared at many festivals including Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Salzburg and the Dublin Handel Festival. During his singing career he has performed and broadcast many times in Italy, including performances with RAI in Turin, BBC Singers at La Scala Milan under Pierre Boulez and the Ravenna Festival. He is an experienced performer of contemporary works including music by Boulez, Kurtàg, Tavener, Ferneyhough and Hans Werner Henze, whose *Der Prinz von Homburg* he broadcasted on BBC 3. With the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Carl Rützi, Hobkirk was a soloist on a commercial CD recording of Henze's works.

Olivia Massimo

Olivia was born in Edinburgh and studies at St. Mary's Music School. She began her singing career as a chorister at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral and has recorded CDs on Delphian as soloist with the choir.

Olivia has toured widely in Europe, singing in Vienna, Bratislava and Prague amongst others. She has been complimented in Italy on her pure tone and musicality.

Olivia also plays the French horn and is shortly to perform the Mozart third Horn Concerto at the end of May at Crichton.



Members of the Choral

Sopranos

Rosemary Bain
Poppy Bain
Bronwyn Brodie
Vicky Brown
Joan Halpin
Anthea Huband
Evelyn McKay
Olivia Massimo
Shirley Open
Jenny Phillips
Vanessa Rolph

Altos

Felicity Bryant
Sally Cleaver
Margaret Croft
Louise Hardy
Jackie Knox
Alison McCreadie
Mary Macfarlane
Lorna McLeod
Joyce Patrick
Ute Penny
Elisabeth Ritchie
Bridget Taylor

Tenors

Derek Brown
Harry Lightoller
Hugh Pumphrey
Marian Thomson
Ann Ward
Moyra Wright

Basses

Brian Dale
John Hardy
Peter Harvey
Robin Strain

Rehearsal

Accompanist

Marian Thomson

Unable to sing at this concert.

We will always welcome new singers.

Anyone wishing to join should speak to any member of the Choral or contact the Secretary by emailing secretary@dunbarchoral.co.uk.

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Our next concert will include
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on Christmas Carols
with other Christmas
carols

Saturday 9th December 2023
at Belhaven Parish Church

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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of two people wakeboarding on a cable park. The person in the foreground is wearing a helmet and a wetsuit, and is captured in a dynamic pose with water splashing around them. The background shows another person wakeboarding. The text is overlaid on the image, with 'Cable Wakeboard Park' at the top, the Foxlake logo in the center, and 'Wakeboarding and Ropes Course' at the bottom. A circular badge in the bottom right corner says 'Vouchers And Bundle Deals Available'. At the very bottom, it says 'Scotland's First Cable Wakeboard Park Dunbar, East Lothian'.

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Come and Sing Handel's Messiah

Sunday afternoon, 12th November 2023
St Anne's Episcopal Church, Dunbar

Whether or not you are a member of a choir, join us for a
"Come and Sing" of the Messiah.
Maestro Alberto Massimo will take the scratch choir through the piece,
leading to an informal performance at the end of the afternoon.
More details and how to register will be on the Choral website shortly.

or email secretary@dunbarchoral.org.uk

(Note that the date was wrong in previous versions of the programme)



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