



+ E A S T E R +

# *The Mount Airy Operatic Club*

Presents

## *Elijah*

An Oratorio by

Felix Mendelssohn

Arranged for presentation as a music-drama

By A. J. Fletcher and Clifford Bair

Rockford Street Auditorium, Mount Airy, N. C.

Monday and Tuesday, March 31 and April 1, 1947 — 8:15 P. M.

### PRINCIPALS

|                                           |       |                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elijah                                    | ----- | A. J. Fletcher, Bass                                                                                                   |
| Obadiah                                   | ----- | James R. Bray, Tenor                                                                                                   |
| An Angel                                  | ----- | Monica Browne, Mezzo                                                                                                   |
| The Widow                                 | ----- | Kathryn Mays, Soprano                                                                                                  |
| Her Son                                   | ----- | Guido Sutter                                                                                                           |
| Ahab                                      | ----- | Louis Bianco, Tenor                                                                                                    |
| Jezebel                                   | ----- | Christine Webb, Soprano                                                                                                |
| A Prophetess                              | ----- | LuEva Bray, Soprano                                                                                                    |
| Second Angel                              | ----- | Belvin Walters, Contralto                                                                                              |
| Preachers                                 | ----- | H. B. Johnson, Reuben Payne                                                                                            |
| Priests of Baal:                          | ---   | Walter Forbis, Winfred Frye, Don Tesh, Donald Ledford,<br>Waldon Coble, Harvy Willard, William Midkiff                 |
| Priestesses:                              | ----- | Shirley Johnson, Anne Rector, Betsy Merritt, Mary Coble                                                                |
| Ladies and Soldiers of the Court of Ahab: | ----- | Nancy Reece, Rachel Hall,<br>Mildred Pruitt, Patsy Brannock, John D. Cook, Gray<br>Harbour, Edward Perdue, Owen Horton |

### FOREWORD

The first Oratorio was produced in the "ORATORY" of an Italian Church in the 17th century under the leadership of Vincenzo Cavallieri, a member of the famous Florentine group known as the Camerata, which produced the first operas.

Whereas, the Camerata wished to revive the Greek Classic Drama, Cavalieri's group of oratorists had as their objective the revival of the sacred dramas which the ancient church employed to convert the then unchristianized tribes of Western Europe to its teachings and ideals. Thus in this presentation the Mount Airy Operatic Club hearkens back to the original concept of oratorio and respectfully dedicates this program as its contribution to a revival of interest in the living message of the church universal.

The Prophet Elijah stands out in the annals of the church not so much because of his success in turning his people back to the worship of a spiritual God, but rather because he alone was able to preserve the true principle of worship in an age when materialism and fake worship prevailed.

# PROGRAM

Opening Remarks: -----Dr. C. N. Clark  
Hymn: -----“Blest be the tie that binds our heart in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”  
Prayer: -----Dr. Richard K. Redwine

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## —ELIJAH—

### Part One—(Elijah in Israel)

Elijah: “As God the Lord liveth, there shall not be dew nor rain”  
Overture: Orchestra  
Chorus: “Help Lord, the rivers are exhausted”  
Obediah: “Ye people, send your hearts and not your garments”  
Chorus: “Yet the Lord heareth not”  
Angel: “Arise, Elijah, and get thee to Zenepath”  
Chorus: “For He shall give his angels charge over thee.”

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### Part Two—(Elijah in Exile)

The Widow: “Art Thou come to me to slay my son?”  
Elijah: “Lord my God, let the spirit of this child return.”  
Widow: “Now by this I know thou art a man of God.”  
Chorus: “Blessed are they who fear Him.”

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### Part Three—(Elijah and the false Worship)

Elijah: “Three years fulfilled I will shew myself to Ahab.”  
Ahab: “Art thou he that troubleth Israel?”  
Elijah: “Ye have forsaken God’s command.”  
Chorus: “Baal we cry to Thee, Hear us.”  
Elijah: “Draw near unto me, ye people.”  
Chorus: “The Fire descends.”  
Elijah: “Is not His word like a fire.”  
Prophetess: “Hear ye, Israel.”  
Jezebel: “Hath He not prophesied against Israel.”  
Chorus: “Death to Him.”

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### Part Four—(Elijah in Exile)

Elijah: “It is enough, take away my life.”  
Angels: “See he sleeps, thy help cometh from the Lord.”  
Elijah: “O Lord, why hast thou made them to err?”  
Angel: “O rest in the Lord.”

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### Part Five—(The Vision)

Choir: “He that shall endure shall be saved.”  
The Preachers: “For God sent His prophet.” “But the Lord hath raised up  
one who from the rising on His Name Shall Call.”  
Chorus: “Then shall your light break forth.”  
“Lord how excellent is thy name, Amen.”  
(Bible Text reference: 1 Kings: 16-21.)

## BENEDICTION

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CHORUS: Alma Banner, Sarah Finch, Vena Harris, Ruth Minick, Lillian Moore, Ruth Eads, Annie Thomas, Bobbie Wray, Christine Webb, Cathryn Mays, LuEva Bray, Monica Browne, Belvin Walters, Ruby Wray, Elsie Sparger, Earl Wray, Roger Moore, J. W. Hylton, Green Witt, James R. Bray, Bob Loftis, Glenn Robertson, Frank Smith, Ivan Richard, Ben Graves, Ed Hines, Louis Bianco, E. C. Bivens, Fred Moreland.

Director and Conductor -----Clifford E. Bair  
Production Director -----Mrs. Robert M. Smith  
Chorus Director -----Earl Wray  
Accompanist -----Mrs. Louis Bianco  
Choreography -----Jacqueline Dorminy  
Lighting -----Lewis B. Webb  
Make-up -----Annie Thomas  
Set and Props -----Mrs. R. E. Hollingsworth, George Williams, Mrs. Lewis Webb, John Hollingsworth, Bob Newsome, Mrs. Jesse Banner, Jack Martin, Mrs. Renzo Sutter, Mrs. Hugh Holcomb, Mrs. Frank Sydnor.  
Costumes-----Mrs. A. G. Webb, Mrs. A. B. Somerville, Mrs. W. K. Cummins, Mrs. Ted Reece.  
Publicity -----Mrs. R. W. Walters, Ted Reece  
Entertainment -----Mrs. J. B. Haynes  
Orchestra -----Members of the Winston-Salem Civic Orchestra, James Lerch and Robert Mayer, Directors, Philip Separk, Manager.