



MENDELSSOHN

ELIJAH

Tuesday 10 March 2015, 7.30pm

London Concert Choir
Canticum | Southbank Sinfonia
Mark Forkgen **conductor**

Erica Eloff **soprano** | Jeanette Ager **mezzo-soprano**
Nicholas Hurndall Smith **tenor** | Toby Stafford-Allen **bass**

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £16, £12

barbican

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Mendelssohn's great biblical oratorio about the prophet Elijah has remained a choral favourite ever since the composer conducted its premiere at the Birmingham Festival in 1846. From its conception Mendelssohn was determined that the drama of the story should be of central importance, and dramatic it certainly is.

First and foremost is the vivid portrayal of Elijah himself, who opens the oratorio with a curse bringing the scourge of drought upon the faithless Israelites. He urges them to renounce the idol worship promoted by King Ahab and his foreign queen and to return to the 'Lord God of Abraham'. Despair, wickedness, cruelty, relief, tenderness and mercy all play their part in the story until the turmoil is finally resolved and the people sing an impassioned chorus of praise and thanksgiving to the 'Lord, our Creator'. The dramatic impact of *Elijah* is intensified by Mendelssohn's imaginative orchestration, and by the humanity of its characters and the beauty and power of the arias and choruses.

London Concert Choir has been a significant part of the London music scene for 55 years, while Canticum chamber choir is now in its 25th season. Both choirs display remarkable musical versatility and expressiveness under their Music Director Mark Forkgen. Southbank Sinfonia is internationally recognised as a leading orchestral academy for young graduate professional musicians from all over the world.

Getting to the Barbican, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS:

- Tube:** The nearest stations are Barbican, St Paul's and Moorgate.
Rail: Liverpool Street and Farringdon are nearest.
Bus: Route 153 runs directly past the Barbican.
Car: The Barbican is clearly sign-posted; there are four car parks on Beech Street and Silk Street.



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