

# ORATORIO "ELIJAH"

## INTENSELY DRAMATIC

CHORUS OF 75 VOICES WITH 20-PIECE ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM.

WILL BE GIVEN JUNE FIRST

SOLOISTS ARE ERA HENDERSON, RUTH AYRAULT, LLOYD GRIFFETH, PAUL HARRISON.

This Oratorio Is Considered One of the Finest in Existence—Is Full of Big Climaxes—Ablly Presented Under Prof. Utt.

On the night of June 1, the Oratorio chorus of Ottawa University will present the oratorio Elijah, under the direction of Prof Paul R Utt, dean of the Conservatory.

The chorus is made up of students and assisted by soloists. The oratorio is a part of the commencement festivities, and is to be given in the First Baptist Church. The college orchestra assists the chorus.

The soloists are to be: Soprano, Miss Era Henderson, and Mrs. Harry Jewell; alto, Miss Ruth Ayrault; tenor, Mr. Paul Harrison; bass, Mr. Lloyd Griffeth.

There will be a quartet composed of Mrs. Jewell, Miss Harness, Mr. Ted Owen, and Mr. Lloyd Briggs. And a double quartet composed of the above quartet and Miss Dorothy Foster, Faye Reichert, Mr. Donald Smith and Mr. Roger Behan. Trio—Mrs. Jewell, Miss Harness and Miss Mabel Trump.

"Elijah" is today probably the most dramatic oratorio ever written. It is crowded with stirring incident and with music which claims every listener. The text is a mosaic of biblical verses taken principally from the First Book of Kings.

The characters of main importance in the oratorio are:

Elijah—Sung by Mr. Lloyd Griffeth.

Obadiah—Mr. Paul Harrison.

Ahab—Mr. Ted Owen.

The Angels—Miss Era Henderson and Miss Ruth Ayrault.

The Widow and the Child—Mrs. Harry Jewell.

The story is as follows: King Ahab ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel, which, like many nations enjoying too great prosperity, had forgotten the Lord. The hopelessness of the situation was increased by the fact that Ahab had espoused Jezebel, the Phoenecian princess who established Baal-worship in the land. This faith flourished until all but seven thousand in the kingdom bowed to Baal. But to Elijah, pondering sadly in the wilderness, it seemed that he alone was faithful.

Suddenly before the dissolute and hostile court Elijah appears, with a shaggy mantle of sheepskin over his shoulders, and a leather girdle about his loins, and pronounces upon Israel the curse of the drought. The people are beginning to feel the horror of the fast growing drought. The tongues of the infants are parching in their mouths and the older children beg piteously for bread. Obadiah, who "feared the Lord greatly," counsels them to forsake their idols. The people suspect Elijah of causing this

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calamity, and he takes refuge at Cherith's brook, where he is sustained by bread carried to him by ravens. He finally proceeds to Zarephath where he stays at the house of a widow. Her son is dying and Elijah, by God's glory, fully restores him.

After three years the prophet appears again at Ahab's court and announces the close of drought. He summons the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal to meet him on Mt. Carmel and there put it to test who is the Lord. Upon the altars erected to Jehovah and to Baal is put the sacrifice. He is the true God who shall send down fire to consume his sacrifice, announces Elijah. The priests of Baal cry aloud to their God, and finally leap upon the altar, cutting themselves with knives. But Elijah calls upon the Lord and fire descends from heaven and consumes his offering. Elijah orders the false prophets to be taken to Kishon's brook and there to be slain. Then Elijah prays for rain and it soon falls in torrents.

In Part II Israel is again in danger of forgetting and Elijah addresses a stinging rebuke to Ahab. Warned by Obadiah, he flees to the wilderness. There oppressed by unfaithfulness and the hatred of the people he prays for death. Weary and dejected he falls asleep and into his dreams come the comforting angels. They bid him go on a journey of forty days and night to Mt. Horeb with the promise of a glory which has come to none but Moses—to be in the actual presence of the Lord. When his journey is completed, he waits in awe, a mighty wind shakes the mountains and an earthquake rends the valley and upheaves the sea, while all about blazes the lightning. But the Lord is in none of these, but in the still, small voice which came after, and whose message none shall know.

After this Elijah walks among men, but is not of them. "He stood up as a fire, and his word burnt as a lamp." And when his work on earth is accomplished, he ascends to heaven in the chariot of fire carried on the wings of the whirlwind.

The oratorio is a great work of art. Those taking part have had previous experience in such work and they are fitted to their respective parts. It is hoped that a large number of students, townspeople and friends will take advantage of the opportunity to hear such a masterpiece.

Accompaniments to this production will be played on the piano by Miss Lucy Forbes, of the Conservatory, and on the Organ by Mrs. Utt. The piano score is particularly difficult and exacting, and Miss Forbes's capable handling of the part has been a great help in the rehearsals, and will be a strong factor in the orchestra accompaniment at the final performance.