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Mendelssohn's Oratorio "Elijah" to be performed at Assumption Church

Summary:

(April 13, 2004)-One hundred twenty singers, 55 instrumentalists, a solo quartet and an additional dozen soloists will combine to perform Felix Mendelssohn's grand oratorio, "Elijah." The work will be performed via a collaboration of the music discipline at the University of Minnesota, Morris at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, at Assumption Catholic Church in Morris.

The oratorio will feature the UMM Concert Choir and University Chorus, directed by Ken Hodgson and the UMM Orchestra, directed by Clifford Panton. Bill Koehler, UMM voice faculty, will sing the role of Elijah. The other major soloists will be, Lisa Hornung, North Battleford, Saskatchewan and Hope Koehler, UMM assistant professor of voice, and Hodgson. Clifford Panton will direct the performance.

Tickets are available in advance for a suggested \$5 donation for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Tickets can be acquired by sending a self addressed stamped envelope and a donation to the UMM Music Office, 600 East 4th Street, Morris, MN, 56267. Tickets will also be available at the door however, due to the limited seating, advanced tickets are recommended.

Elijah is a magnificent work that has many familiar choruses and solos, such as the beautiful chorus, "He Watching Over Israel" the well known song for tenor, "If With All Your Hearts Ye truly Seek Me" and the rich alto solo, "O Rest in The Lord," to name a few.

Mendelssohn was commissioned in 1845 to write this work for a large choral festival in Birmingham, England. The completion came in 1846 and the work was first performed in August of that year in the Birmingham Town Hall. The oratorio relates the account of the prophet Elijah (I Kings and II Kings), dealing with his prediction of the three year drought, his pleading with the people of Israel to repent from their worship of Baal, to his being carried in a blazing chariot with fiery horses to heaven (II Kings 2:11). The work rings with dramatic solos and choruses and is warmed with words of repentance and reconciliation.

Mark your calendars now for this remarkable musical event - Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 at Assumption Church in Morris.

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