-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

   25 July 2017

**Auckland Choral presents Mendelssohn’s *Elijah***

**Saturday 2 September, 7.30pm @ Auckland Town Hall**

**A stunning musical interpretation of devotion, prosecution, and ascension!**

***Elijah***is considered a masterpiece in every sense of the word, a work as effective in a house of worship as well as a concert hall. With his last major triumph, Mendelssohn created something timeless, a work that enthralls people in every walk of life, in every land, and of every religious faith.

One of the supreme examples of music for soloists, chorus, and orchestra, Mendelssohn’s glorious oratorio ***Elijah*** tells the story of the Old Testament prophet charged with bringing Israel back into God’s fold: his curse, his miracles, his struggles, and ultimately his ascent to Heaven in a flaming chariot.

Mendelssohn was a devotee of Handel, whose *Messiah* oratorio Auckland Choral performs in December. The audience can expect a similarly powerful experience with Elijah. And who better in the title role than the internationally renowned bass, **Martin Snell**, returning to Auckland Choral from his home base in Switzerland for this concert, along with mezzo **Helen Medlyn** and Australians, soprano **Jennifer Barrington**, and tenor **Martin Thomas Buckingham** noted for his ‘believable acting and rich tenor voice’.

***Elijah*** was a smash hit at its first performance in 1846 before two thousand people in Brimingham’s Town Hall – a building whose interior is very similar in size and layout to the Auckland Town Hall.

The grand symphonic sound from Auckland Choral, Pipers Sinfonia and our wonderful soloists will highlight the intensity of the story and heighten the emotional experience for the audience.

Be prepared for the widest range of emotions, from the thrilling, ceremonial battle of ‘*Baal We Cry To Thee*’ to the soft, three-part gem of ‘*Lift thine Eyes’* - ***Elijah*** is nothing less than the lifetime journey of a soul.

Auckland Choral: MENDELSSOHN (1809–47)

Elijah, Oratorio on Words of the Old Testament, Op. 70 (1845–46, rev. 1847)

Saturday 2 September 2017, 7.30pm

Auckland Town Hall, Auckland Central

Tickets $42 - 95 from ticketmaster.co.nz or phone 09 970 9700

Jennifer Barrington, Soprano

Helen Medlyn, Mezzo

Martin Thomas Buckingham, Tenor

Martin Snell, Bass

Michael Stoddart, Organ

Auckland Choral

Pipers Sinfonia

Uwe Grodd, Conductor

-- ENDS –