



Robbinsdale Area Schools

Music Festival

*Thursday, October 24, 2002
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis*



Program

Welcome.....	Stan F. Mack II, Superintendent
All-District Elementary Choir	<i>Patti Arntz, conductor</i>
<i>The National Anthem</i>	John Stafford Smith, arr. by Epp
<i>Goliath</i>	William/Martin
Remarks.....	David Adney, principal, Robbinsdale Cooper High School David Dahl, principal, Robbinsdale Armstrong High School
Combined Symphonic Orchestras	<i>Shane Schmeichel, conductor</i>
<i>A Night on Bald Mountain</i>	Mussorgsky/Rimsky-Korsakov
Combined Concert Choirs	<i>Sheryl Brame, conductor</i>
<i>The Water is Wide</i>	Rene Clausen
Combined Women's Choirs	<i>Dale Kruse, conductor</i>
<i>Today, This Spring</i>	
<i>II. She piped for us</i>	Libby Larsen
Combined High School Choirs	<i>Stephanie Trump, conductor</i>
<i>If Music Be the Food of Love</i>	David Dickau
Combined Choirs and Orchestras	<i>Kathy Saltzman Romey, guest conductor</i>
<i>Psalm 42, Opus 42</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
Maria Jette, soprano	
All-District Choir, Combined Choirs and Orchestras	<i>Kathy Saltzman Romey, guest conductor</i>
<i>How Can I Keep From Singing?</i>	James Mulholland

Felix Mendelssohn

Born to affluent parents in 1809, Felix Mendelssohn developed an outstanding musical talent at an early age. His parents were able to introduce him to society's finest musicians and scholars.

Mendelssohn's sacred work "Psalm 42," though lesser known than his secular compositions, is arguably the finest example of 19th century choral writing. It was written in a style intended for performance in the great European concert venues.

Composer Robert Schumann, Mendelssohn's friend and contemporary, praised the "gracefulness of Mendelssohn's craft, the delicacy and purity of every detail, the power and intensity of the climaxes, but above all, for want of a better description, the spirituality of the music." Mendelssohn himself described the work as, "by far my best sacred piece," in fact "my best composition." He joked that, if it were to be poorly received, he would give up composing and become a basketweaver.

The text of Psalm 42 is generally considered to be a lament. However, this particular composition was written at the establishment of Mendelssohn's career, ironically during Mendelssohn's honeymoon. It was a time in his life during which he was both personally and professionally contented. This composition truly was a labor of love. The connection between the composer's state of mind and the text becomes evident in the artistry of his work.