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CONTACT:

Tom Penkala, General Manager
State College Choral Society
(814) 404-9223
info@scchoralsociety.org

CHORAL SOCIETY MARKS 70TH ANNIVERSARY WITH GALA PERFORMANCE OF *ELIJAH*

State College, PA, April 2, 2019 In 1997, the State College Choral Society performed Felix Mendelssohn's choral masterpiece *Elijah*, with operatic great Sherrill Milnes in the role of the titular prophet, to "a richly deserved standing ovation," according to a reviewer. This month, the Choral Society celebrates its 70th anniversary season with an encore performance of that work. On April 28 at 3 p.m., the SCCS will bring *Elijah* back to Central Pennsylvania in a gala concert at Penn State's Eisenhower Auditorium.

"Never was there a more complete triumph—never a more thorough and speedy recognition of a great work of art." So wrote *The Times* of London after *Elijah's* premiere in 1846. Today, *Elijah* remains one of the most popular oratorios in the world. Its beautiful choruses, including "He, Watching Over Israel," and its alternately fiery and prayerful arias are a showpiece for singers and orchestras alike. Joining the Choral Society in April's concert are the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra, the State High Master Singers, and an all-star cast of soloists including soprano [Laura Choi Stuart](#), tenor [Benjamin Warschawski](#), mezzo-soprano and local favorite [Amanda Silliker](#), and baritone [Timothy LeFebvre](#) as Elijah.

"Having sung *Elijah* numerous times," LeFebvre says, "I am continually impressed by the theatrical approach provided for us by Mendelssohn. The role of Elijah is commanding, lyrical, and intimate throughout the oratorio, but the main character is definitely the chorus! I very much look forward to being a part of telling this engaging story and to collaborating with the State College Choral Society in this moving and powerful work."

Tickets are available through [Eisenhower Auditorium/Ticketmaster](#) or at PSU's box office locations at Eisenhower Auditorium, [Downtown Theatre](#), or the [Bryce Jordan Center](#).

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For more information about the Choral Society and the concert, please contact General Manager Tom Penkala at (814) 404 9223 or at info@scchoralsociety.org. Information is also available on the [Choral Society website](#).