

Kjos String Orchestra  
Grade 2  
Full Conductor Score  
SO454F

# Felix Mendelssohn

## **Lift Thine Eyes**

Arranged by Katie O'Hara LaBrie



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • *Publisher*



## The Arranger



**Katie O'Hara LaBrie** is an active conductor, composer, clinician, and cellist from Northern Virginia. An educator at heart, Mrs. LaBrie spent the first 15 years of her career teaching orchestra in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steven Amundson, and a Master's of Music degree in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, Mrs. LaBrie's inspiration grows from many sources such as family and nature, but primarily draws from her experiences as a music educator. She enjoys creating new music with the goal of being educationally sound, pleasing to audiences, and above all, fun for the players. She is passionate about sharing music with others and teaching students how to practice with purpose. In fact, on the subject of home practice and becoming lifelong learners, she is co-creator of "the Big IDEA" method (Identify, Decide, Execute, Analyze).

Mrs. LaBrie's compositions have received many accolades including frequent selection as J.W. Pepper's Editors' Choice and Stanton's Sheet Music 5 Star Features List, as well as performances at the Midwest Clinic and American String Teachers Association Conference. In

2022 she was honored as one of Yamaha's "40 Under 40," for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players. She lives in Fairfax, Virginia with her husband Joe, who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam.

### Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 – 1st Violin
- 8 – 2nd Violin
- 5 – 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5 – Viola
- 5 – Cello
- 5 – String Bass
- 1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, please visit [www.kjos.com](http://www.kjos.com).

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## The Composition

I arranged this piece in honor of Sigrid Johnson who passed away in 2022 after a long life full of music. “Sig” as she was affectionately known, was an artist-in residence, voice teacher, and the director of The Manitou Singers at St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota) from 1983 to 2015. Every year she fostered the love of music in the 100 freshmen women joining her ensemble. She bequeathed life skills reaching far beyond music: the power of preparation, pride in their work, deference and respect, and the importance of listening to each other.



She was a sought-after clinician and conductor, known world-wide for her amazing musical ear; preparing choruses for Neeme Järvi, Sir Neville Marriner, and Leonard Slatkin, among others. She served as conductor of the Dale Warland Symphonic Chorus, associate conductor of the Dale Warland Singers, associate conductor of VocalEssence, and guest conductor of the National Lutheran Choir, and Magnum Chorum.

Sigrid was a loving nurturer, caring and selfless. She was deeply respected by her fellow colleagues, and beloved by her family; husband Robert “BJ” Johnson, sons Peter and Andy, and two adoring grandsons.

I had the honor of studying under Sigrid when I was a freshman at St. Olaf. **Lift Thine Eyes**, which was a staple in the repertoire for The Manitou Singers, was one of the first pieces I sang in the ensemble.

I encourage everyone preparing this piece to listen to a recording of Sigrid’s glorious and masterful interpretation from the album *Repertoire for Women’s Voices Volume 1* – which you can currently access on most online platforms. In fact, that is a young “me” on the cover image (back row, center).

In arranging this choral work for orchestra, notation became a challenge due to the conflicting concepts of choral breath marks and string bow lift marks. In performing this piece, please treat the tenuto markings at the ends of phrases as breath marks. Take time using plenty of rubato for each phrase as you imagine a choir taking time to breathe before starting the subsequent phrase. In Measures 36 and 37, hold the eighth notes for just beyond the full value, treating the eighth rests as breaths. In Measure 5, it is preferable that all celli shift to extended 2nd position to play the E if able.

The music of **Lift Thine Eyes** comes from Part II of Felix Mendelssohn’s **Elijah**, with text from Psalm 121. In the oratorio it is sung, fittingly, by a trio of angels, sent down to instill hope.

-Katie O’Hara LaBrie



# Lift Thine Eyes

Full Conductor Score  
Approx. performance time—1:55

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)  
Arranged by Katie O'Hara LaBrie (ASCAP)

**Andante con moto e molto rubato** (♩ = 100)

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is for Violins (1 and 2), Viola\*, Cello, and String Bass. The tempo is Andante con moto e molto rubato (♩ = 100). The key signature has one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature is common time (C). The dynamics are marked as mp, f, mf, and mp.

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score is for Vlns. (1 and 2), Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The dynamics are marked as mp and mf.

Musical score for measures 9-13. The score is for Vlns. (1 and 2), Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The dynamics are marked as mf and f. Measure 9 is boxed with the number 9. Measure 10 has a 4-measure rest for the first violin. Measure 13 has a 4-measure rest for the cello.

\*A part for 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.) is included.

14 15 16 **rit.** 17 **a tempo** 18

Vlns. 1 *mp* *mp* *mp* *f*

Vlns. 2 *mp* *mp* *mp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *mp* *mp* *f*

Cello *mp* *mp* *mp* *f*

Str. Bass *mp* *mp* *mp* *f*

19 20 21 22 23 V

Vlns. 1 *mf* *p* *mp*

Vlns. 2 *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Cello *mf* *p*

Str. Bass *mf* *mp*

24 25 26 27 **molto rit.**

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Cello *mf* *f*

Str. Bass *mf* *f*

**28 a tempo**

1 Vlns. *p* *f* *f* *ff* *mf*

2 Vlns. *p* *f* *f* *ff* *mf*

Vla. *p* *f* *f* *ff*

Cello *p* *f* *f* *ff*

Str. Bass *p*

Measures 28-31. Dynamics range from *p* to *ff*.

**rubato**

1 Vlns. *f*

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Cello *mf* *f*

Str. Bass *mf* *f*

Measures 32-35. Includes *pizz.* and *arco* markings. Dynamics range from *mf* to *f*.

**meno mosso** **molto rit.**

1 Vlns. *mf* *mp*

2 Vlns. *mf* *mp*

Vla. *mf* *mp*

Cello *mf* *mp*

Str. Bass *mf* *mp*

Measures 36-39. Dynamics range from *mf* to *mp*.



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