

**Psalm 43 (Richte mich, Gott)**

**Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)**

Though he is chiefly remembered for his large-scale works, such as the *Violin Concerto*, the *Italian Symphony* and *Elijah*, Mendelssohn also wrote some very fine church music, of which *Hear My Prayer* is of course the most well-known. One of his responsibilities as head of the Berlin Academy of the Arts was to conduct the Berlin cathedral choir, for which he wrote a number of sacred pieces including a group of three unaccompanied psalm settings. They are perhaps the finest of his short choral compositions. *Psalm 43, Richte mich, Gott (Judge me O God)* is for eight-part unaccompanied choir.

*programme notes by John Bawden*

**To those using these notes**

You are more than welcome to use all or part of these notes for your choral society or church programme, or for educational purposes. Please would you ensure that my authorship is attributed, and would you also kindly advise me by e-mail - [info@directoryofchoralmusic.co.uk](mailto:info@directoryofchoralmusic.co.uk). If you wish to use these notes for commercial reproduction, e.g. a CD or DVD liner, please contact me first. Thank you.

*Richte mich, Gott, und führe meine Sache  
wider das unheilige Volk,  
und errette mich von den falschen und bösen Leuten.  
Denn du bist der Gott meiner Stärke;  
warum verstössest du mich?*

*Warum lässest du mich so traurig geh'n,  
wenn mein Feind mich drängt?  
Sende dein Licht und deine Wahrheit, dass  
sie mich leiten zu deinem heiligen Berge,  
und zu deiner Wohnung.  
Dass ich hinein gehe zum Altar Gottes, zu  
dem Gott, der meine Freude und Wonne ist,*

*und dir, Gott, auf der Harfe danke, mein  
Gott.  
Was betrübst du dich, meine Seele, und  
bist so unruhig in mir?  
Harre auf Gott! denn ich werde ihm noch  
danken,  
dass er meines Angesichts Hilfe, und mein  
Gott ist.*

Judge me, O God, and plead my cause  
against an ungodly nation,  
O deliver me from deceitful and unjust  
men.

For thou art the God of my strength;  
O why dost thou cast me from thee?

Wherefore mourn I because the enemy  
sorely oppresseth me?  
Send out thy light and truth, Lord; O let  
them lead me, and bring me unto thy holy  
hill and to thy dwelling place.  
And then will I go to the altar of God, the

God of my joy, to God, the God of my  
gladness and joy,  
I will praise thee upon the harp, O my  
God,  
O my soul, why art thou cast downward,  
and why art thou disquieted within me?  
Hope in the Lord! O my soul, for I will  
praise him who is the health of my countenance,  
and my gracious Lord and God.

