

# Villingen-Schwenningen

## Musical teamwork that inspires

By Siegfried Kouba 09.04.2018 - 17:16

Conductor Yael Wagner-Avital, boy soprano Mark Grishin, soprano Siri Karoline Thornhill, alto player Britta Schwarz, tenor Philipp Nicklaus and baritone Johannes Hill all provide the good impression with Mendelssohn's "Elias".



Photo: Kouba Photo: Black Forest Messenger

**VS-Villingen.** The performance of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's "Elias" in the Franciscan gifted the audience, who celebrated the rendition with thunderous applause.

Connecting points were the joint work of Israelis and Germans, the idea of bringing people together, the meeting with singers of the Tivon Israel Chamber Choir, the Misgav Hagalil Choirs and the choral ensemble "Vokale" Villingen, the commonality of laymen and professionals of the "camerata academica freiburg" and the engine Yael Wagner-Avital, who conducted the performance safely, energetically and metric. Tangents were also the composer who converted to Christianity as a Jew, as well as the edgy figure of the Old Testament desired by him, which is interpreted messianically in the New Testament.

### **Best selection of soloists**

The best soloist selection increased the listening pleasure: Siri Karoline Thornhill, who had an elegant, full of character, bright soprano and richly represented the widow. Britta Schwarz enthused with heartfelt singing and emotional commitment. Her old man came with heartfelt warmth at "Be silent to the Lord". His supporting, fresh tenor was Philipp Nicklaus. His recitatives were characterized by soulful expression, topped by the arias. Outstanding was John Hill, who personified the eponymous figure. With his sonorous rounded strong baritone he formed passionately Elijah the fearless prophet, the loving miracle worker, the admonitory preacher, the fighter against idols and the proclaimer of the sole God of Israel. Even the powerful entrance scene "

Despite minor bumps, the orchestra managed to capture the romantic spirit of the composer. **Astonishingly present was the chorus, over 120 members, which created exciting excitement of the people**, evoking the elements in "The Lord Passed Past," which figuratively designed "And the prophet Elias broke forth" and demanded admiration at the final chorus. Part of the works were operatic passages, but also chamber music moments and the expressive-dramatic overall performance with the echo of the double quartet "For he commanded his angels" or the trio "Lift your eyes"