

Chelsea Simmons

Art 175/Blanton



In preparation for creating visuals for Mendellsons Ellijah, it is first crucial to familiarize ourselves with the story itself. Ellijah is an oratorio adaptation of a

story from the Old Testament. The oratorio is said to be influenced by composers Bach and Handel. Ellijah is prophet who believes in a sole God, whereas others in the story believe in multiple gods and referenced to as Baal.

As with the nature of most oratorios, the story of Ellijah is triumph in a roundabout way or mostly tragic for the duration of the piece. Ellijah believes that a drought and other terrible things will happen and are due to others worship of Baal instead of the true, one God; Abraham. Inspite of continously helping prove his powers and prophecies are correct, the Queen wants to kill Ellijah so he flees to the desert. Ellijah has a bit of crisis within himself at this point and then sees Abraham and is comforted in his purpose and works until he dies and goes to heaven.

The bible provides an interesting story for us in Ellijah in that his faith prevails and he is accepted back into the peoples hearts. Ellijah is fragile but triumphs in the end.

I was not sure what to expect when creating visuals for Ellijah; although that went completely not how I expected either to be honest, but thought the finished piece was quite

moving. This production of Ellijah did not focus on a lot of fancy costumes or stage sets, but just a few strong visual pieces. There was a lot of strong use of complimentary colors within the production and the visuals of ART 120 and 175 just helped highlight those moments further. I feel like the true story of Ellijah came out more due to the use of simple yet powerful visuals. The visuals accentuated but did not overpower or distract from the characters and their messages. It was exciting to see a production of such large size unfold and come together in a relatively short time.