

# The Conductors

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## F. H. TORRINGTON

Frederic Herbert Torrington, conductor of the Festival oratorios, was born at Dudley, Worcestershire, England, Oct. 20, 1837. He commenced playing the violin at seven years of age, and studied piano, violin, organ and harmony under competent instructors at Birmingham. Mr. Torrington subsequently removed to Kidderminster, where he was articled for four years to Mr. James Fitzgerald, organist of St. George's and St. Mary's Churches, and was instructed in piano, organ, and the management of choirs. In 1857 he was appointed organist of Great St. James' Street Methodist Church, Montreal, and remained there twelve years, becoming the founder of several vocal societies and an amateur orchestra. Subsequently Mr. Torrington accepted the position of organist at King's Chapel, Boston, and held it four years, during which period he was one of the regular solo organists at the Music Hall, one of the first violins in the Harvard Symphony Orchestra, a teacher of the piano at the New England Conservatory of Music, and conductor of six vocal societies. In 1873 he went to Toronto, and was appointed organist and choir-master of the Metropolitan Church, and conductor of the Philharmonic Society. In June, 1886, a Musical Festival of the first order was held at Toronto, and much of the success of the festival, musically and financially, was due to the enthusiasm, ability and unceasing exertions of Mr. Torrington, who was the originator of the enterprise. In 1883 Mr. Torrington was appointed conductor of the Hamilton Choral (now the Philharmonic) Society, and has since retained the position. He is a born leader of men, and his sound musicianship, practical acquaintance with the resources of the modern orchestra and the possibilities of choral work, combined with great skill as a conductor, entitle him to a place in the front rank of musical directors of the day.

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## JAMES JOHNSON

James Johnson, Conductor of the Grand Jubilee Festival Children's Chorus, was born at Coldstream, Berwick, Scotland, Feb. 9,