

About Conspirare

The word “conspirare” derives from the Latin “con” and “spirare” translated as “to breathe together.”

Established in 1991 to present a summer music festival in Austin, Texas, Conspirare has grown dramatically to become an internationally lauded choral organization led by founding artistic director Craig Hella Johnson. Conspirare is comprised of two performing ensembles and an educational program. The five-time Grammy[®]-nominated professional chamber choir (“Conspirare”) consists of extraordinary singers from around the country. It performs broadly diverse repertoire – early music to 21st century, classical to popular – in Austin, other Texas communities, around the U.S. and abroad. The 100-voice Conspirare Symphonic Choir of both professional and volunteer singers performs large choral/orchestral works, often in collaboration with other performing organizations such as the Austin Symphony Orchestra and Victoria Bach Festival. Conspirare Youth Choirs is an educational program for singers ages 8-16 who learn and perform in two separate ensembles, Kantorei and Conspirare Children’s Choir.

In 2005 Conspirare received national service organization Chorus America’s Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence and in 2010, its Dale Warland Singers Commission Award. In 2007, as a select NEA American Masterpieces grantee, Conspirare produced a four-day festival that featured numerous distinguished composers and conductors, three commissioned world premieres, and a gala closing concert with a 600-voice choir. Conspirare has received numerous other NEA grant awards in recognition of its excellence.

In July 2008 Conspirare represented the U.S. at the Eighth World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen, joining invited choirs from nearly forty countries. The professional ensemble also has been an invited, featured choir at national, Eastern Division, and Central Division conventions of the American Choral Directors Association in 2009, 2010, and 2012, respectively, with associated regional tours. In February 2011 Conspirare gave several invited performances in New York City under auspices of the Weill Music Institute of Carnegie Hall. The choir will travel to France in October 2012 to perform as an invited choir at the Polyfollia Festival in St. Lô, Lower Normandy.

Conspirare made its first commercial recording, *through the green fuse*, in 2004 on the Clarion label. A second CD, *Requiem*, in 2006 on Clarion and since reissued by Harmonia Mundi, received Grammy nominations for Best Choral Performance and Best Engineered Album, Classical. Harmonia Mundi also released *Requiem* in Europe in 2009, where it received the Netherlands’ prestigious Edison Award.

A third recording, *Threshold of Night*, was released worldwide in 2008 on Harmonia Mundi and received Grammy nominations for Best Choral Performance and Best Classical Album. A PBS television special *A Company of Voices: Conspirare in Concert* was broadcast nationally in March 2009 and the recording received a Grammy nomination as Best Classical Crossover Album. Conspirare’s latest CD *Sing Freedom! African American Spirituals* was released in September 2011 by Harmonia Mundi, to great critical acclaim, and its next release will be *Choral Music of Samuel Barber* in fall 2012.