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HOPE OF LOVING: FEATURING WORKS OF AWARD-WINNING COMPOSER JAKE RUNESTAD

ALL TICKETS / INFO: <https://conspirare.org/event/hope-of-loving/>

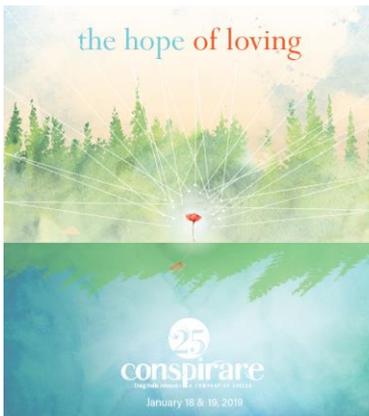
1/18/2019 (8:00pm) Friday

1/19/2019 (8:00pm) Saturday

Pre-concert talks each night at 7:00pm with the composer

AUSTIN: St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W 15th St, Austin, TX 78701

January 7, 2019 Conspirare presents Hope of Loving, the next concert in its 25th Anniversary Season, in two upcoming appearances at St. Martin's. Hope of Loving features the socially conscious choral works of composer Jake Runestad performed by Conspirare's Grammy®-award winning singers and instrumental collaborators including pianist, Carla McElhane, violinist Stephen Redfield, violinist Caleb Polashek, violist Bruce Williams, and cellist Douglas Harvey.



Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson said, "Jake Runestad's choral music is rooted in his understanding of *choir* and the inherent transformative potential whenever a group of singers gather and then come together with an audience. He does not shy away from challenging emotional and cultural topics, but rather, moves directly towards them. He is also not afraid to point towards hope." Johnson and Runestad collaborated to create a program covering a broad emotional and thematic range.

Runestad, an acclaimed and widely-commissioned composer, will be in residence with the ensemble and offer pre-concert talks. His works have received awards from the American Composers Forum, ASCAP, the Peabody Conservatory, New Music USA, and the American Choral Directors Association among others.

Runestad is also the recipient of a 2017 McKnight Fellowship and a 2016 Morton Gould Young Composer Award from the ASCAP Foundation. In addition to the performances, Conspirare will produce an album of Runestad's works. Runestad commented about the collaboration that, "Their [Conspirare's] passion and precision is a perfect match for my music and I'm absolutely thrilled about the upcoming concerts and recording — I couldn't ask for a more meaningful collaboration." Runestad continued to share more about the music on Conspirare's program, saying "I am inspired by the common stories, from around the globe, that unite us as a single human race, and wish to explore those through my music. Themes of love, loss, racial equality, environmentalism, and hope permeate the repertoire for this concert; all within the context of authentic emotions that speak to our beautiful and complex human existence."



Conspirare tenor Dann Coakwell will offer a masterclass for Conspirare Youth Choirs singers in conjunction with the concerts. The free event is open to the public and will be held on Monday, January 14 at 7:30pm at Tarrytown UMC.

UPCOMING 25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON EVENTS

March Moderns

Program Page: <https://conspirare.org/event/march-moderns/>

March Moderns is a mini-festival featuring new works for voices and instruments. Conspirare will give the world premiere of *Songs for Muska*, composed by 2017-2018 American Prize winner Jocelyn Hagen. Hagen's musical textures and colors sing in these settings of landays (2-line Pashto folk poems) translated by Eliza Griswold and Farzana Marie's translations of poems by young Afghani women.

Vanguard showcases extraordinary works for voices by three of today's boldest compositional voices: Caroline Shaw, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, and Andrea Clearfield. Kile Smith's ethereal new work, a setting of St. John of the Cross' Spiritual Canticle for voices, three cellos, and vibraphone, will surround listeners in a sensual sound bath to close the festival.

- Vanguard TUE, March 26 at 7:30pm St. Martin's Lutheran Church
- Songs for Muska FRI, March 29 at 8:00 pm Bates Recital Hall
- Canticle SUN, March 31 at 4:00 pm Canticle St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Hidden Music Benefit

- FRI, April 26 at Hotel Van Zandt

Conspirare Youth Choirs Moonrise

- FRI, May 3 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church
- SAT, May 4 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Special Events

Considering Matthew Shepard: Encore Performances 2018-2019

- SAT, 04/13/19 Stanford, California
- TUE, 04/16/19 Tucson, Arizona

About Conspirare

Conspirare is a choral ensemble that creates exceptional concert experiences and world-class recordings under the incomparable direction of Craig Hella Johnson. The company is composed of three ensembles. The Grammy-Award winning **Conspirare** is the flagship ensemble of the organization. Johnson and Conspirare were awarded the **2014 Best Choral Performance Grammy® for *The Sacred Spirit of Russia*** – one of eleven recordings released on [PIAS] harmonia mundi. The **Conspirare Symphonic Choir** is an auditioned chorus of both professional and volunteer singers who reside in the Austin, Texas area. **Conspirare Youth Choirs (CYC)** was formed as an outreach program to seek and train young musicians who share a love and commitment for creating music at a high level of excellence. CYC singers perform in three ensembles: Prelude, Kantorei, and Allegro.

[Conspirare press kit page \(images for download, info pdf\)](#)