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Contact: [Melissa Eddy](mailto:Melissa Eddy), 512-217-1264 (cell)

## New Conspirare CD to be released worldwide February 11

Release party February 27 at Waterloo Records, Austin



Conspirare's newest CD *The Sacred Spirit of Russia* is scheduled for global release on February 11 by Harmonia Mundi USA, the ensemble's eighth recording for the distinguished label. Subtitled "Christmas liturgy from a Russian cathedral," the disc features works by early twentieth-century composers of the "new Russian school"—Kastalsky, Gretchaninov, Rachmaninov, and Chesnokov – and their followers Sviridov and Martynov.

Waterloo Records will host a CD release party on Thursday, February 27, 5-6:30 pm, at 600 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin. The event will feature excerpts from the recording and commentary by artistic director **Craig Hella Johnson**. The new CD will be in stock for immediate purchase, and Johnson and other Conspirare artists will be available to sign CDs purchased on site. Admission is **free** and beverages will be served courtesy of Shiner Beer. The party is open to the public.

### MORE DETAIL

Under Johnson's direction, Conspirare also sang the pieces in live performance in January 2013, when the recording was made in Austin at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, a space noted for its cathedral-like acoustics. Of that concert, Paul Robinson wrote for *La Scena Musicale*: "[Conspirare sings] with total command of both the language and the style of the music ... **a jaw-dropping introduction to a rich tradition of inspiring and uplifting music** ... unusual and deeply satisfying musical nourishment."

**Vladimir Morosan, a leading expert in Russian liturgical music** and consultant to Conspirare for the performances and recording, wrote in *Orthodox Arts Journal*: "Although many Russian composers ... wrote more or less complete settings of the Divine Liturgy, on a typical Sunday in parishes of the Russian tradition one is not likely to hear the works of just one composer. The practice, rather, is to sing an eclectic mix of settings by various composers. This was the approach used to build the program [recorded] by Conspirare ... **Several works on this program are North American (and perhaps world-wide) premieres**, brought to life some hundred years after their composition ... The result [is] a stellar lineup of extraordinarily rich and beautiful sacred choral music."

Advance copies of *The Sacred Spirit of Russia* are available on request for feature stories or critical reviews. Contact [Melissa Eddy](mailto:Melissa Eddy).

Images:

CD cover, *The Sacred Spirit of Russia*; Conspirare ensemble for *The Sacred Spirit of Russia* performance & recording, January 2013, credit: Scott van Osdol, [vanosdol.com](http://vanosdol.com)

High resolution versions are available on request.

