

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conspirare presents
Samuel Barber: American Romantic

Friday, September 23, 8:00 pm
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St., Austin

Saturday, September 24, 8:00 pm
Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Drive, Austin

Sunday, September 25, 3:00 pm
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St., Austin

Pre-concert talk one hour before each performance; free to ticket holders.

Admission \$28-\$48

Call about student or group rates

Tickets at 512-474-5664 (ext 3) or [TLC Conspirare tickets](#)

Information at 512-476-5775 or conspirare.org

(Additional performance on Thursday, September 22, 8:00 pm at Klett Performing Arts Center, 2211 N. Austin Ave., Georgetown, Texas. Pre-concert talk at 7:00. Presented by the Georgetown Performing Arts Alliance. Tickets through the Georgetown Symphony Society at 512-864-9591.)

About the concert

Conspirare opens its season with an all-Barber program honoring the great American composer. Barber's music is lush, moving, and uniquely American, and audiences will be entranced by its beauty as interpreted by Conspirare's Company of Voices and artistic director Craig Hella Johnson.

The program includes the beloved *Agnus Dei* (choral version of the famous *Adagio for Strings* heard in several recent film scores), and other favorites such as *Reincarnations* and *Sure on This Shining Night*. Concertgoers will also enjoy less well-known but intriguing Barber pieces such as *A Stopwatch and an Ordnance Map* and *Motetto on Words from the Book of Job*.

A highlight will be the premiere of a new, Conspirare-commissioned re-orchestration of Barber's sensual, passionate, and rarely performed *The Lovers*, a setting of poetry by Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda. Originally written for large chorus and orchestra, the work will be arranged for chamber ensemble and choir by composer Robert Kyr, whose most recent Conspirare collaboration in January 2011 garnered rave reviews in *The Wall Street Journal* and elsewhere. *The Lovers* will feature baritone soloist David Farwig, winner of a 2011 Austin Critics Table award as Outstanding Singer.

A free pre-concert talk by Margaret Perry, education director at Austin Lyric Opera, will be given one hour before each performance.

Recording to follow

Following the live performances in Austin, the Barber program will be recorded in the acoustically superb Sauder Hall at Goshen College, Goshen, IN, for international release in fall 2012 on the Harmonia Mundi label. Conspirare will be the first U.S. professional choir to record Barber's complete *a capella* choral works for a major label. The CD will also be the first-ever commercial recording of *The Lovers*.

The recording is made possible through the generous support of friends and family of Fran Collmann, in honor of her twelve years' leadership of the Conspirare board of directors, and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

About the Composer

For a short biography of Samuel Barber and a choral discography, visit <http://www.singers.com/composers/Samuel-Barber/>.

For a lengthier, analytical Barber biography, visit http://www.schirmer.com/default.aspx?TabId=2419&State_2872=2&ComposerId_2872=72

About Conspirare

To learn more about Conspirare, visit <http://conspirare.org/about-us/history-highlights/>.

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Photos of Conspirare, Craig Hella Johnson, Robert Kyr, and David Farwig are available upon request.