

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [Melissa J. Eddy](#), Acting Marketing & PR Manager, 512-217-1264 (c)

Conspirare presents Bach Plus: Elegant Craft, Ardent Expression

Austin performances

Saturday, September 28, 8:00 pm

Sunday, September 29, 3:00 pm

St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St.

Admission \$24-\$60 (reserved seating)

Youth and college students with ID \$10

Call about group rates

Information & tickets at 512-474-5664 or conspirare.org/concerts/tickets/

Performances outside Austin

Thursday, September 26, Victoria; details [here](#)

Friday, September 27, Houston; details [here](#)

About the concert

Conspirare begins the dramatic arc of its twenty-first season with a concert celebrating the art and craft of choral composition. In this program J. S. Bach's motets – gleaming pearls of elegant compositional craft – form a framework for music that expresses emotions from weary lament to exuberant joy. Audiences will hear *Der Geist hilft* and other Bach favorites; gems by Gustav Mahler, young Estonian composer Pärt Uusberg, and more; and a touch of gospel. A new revision of Steven Sametz's work *in time of* will be premiered, and Conspirare's artistic director Craig Hella Johnson will contribute a new setting of *Born into Weary (The Weary Blues)*. The choir is joined by Faith Debow, piano and organ, cellist Douglas Harvey, and double bassist David Dawson.

Johnson says of the program, "We all aspire to a balance between structure and freedom, and the music we're singing in September is incredibly structured yet has a wonderfully free feeling. Having Bach at the core of a program like this illustrates the endless imagination of great composers: invert, spin, modulate, all to craft something fresh and new. It also showcases our singers' skill in choral chamber music – which I like to think of as artists playing nicely with others in a very distinguished way."

More concert details may be found [here](#), including an artist roster and complete list of works to be performed.

About Conspirare

To learn more about Conspirare, click [here](#).

-30-

Photos of Conspirare and Craig Hella Johnson are available [here](#); others upon request.