

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Conspirare presents

### “Christmas at the Carillon” at the Long Center (with Patrice Pike)

Five-time Grammy®-nominated Conspirare performs the seventeenth annual edition of its incomparable holiday program. From contemplative to resounding, classical to pop, “Christmas at the Carillon” includes music for every taste, showcasing artistic director Craig Hella Johnson’s “collage” technique of combining diverse musical genres into one seamless program. The exquisite artistry of Conspirare’s professional singers is complemented by two guest artists: Austin singer-songwriter **Patrice Pike**, whose heartfelt performance in last year’s Christmas concerts brought audiences to their feet, and percussionist **Tom Burritt**.

#### Performance:

**Monday, December 6, 8:00 p.m.**

Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside Dr., Austin

Tickets \$50-\$40-\$30-\$20

Call for student and group prices.

512-476-5775 or [www.conspirare.org](http://www.conspirare.org)

(Carillon Gala dinner/dessert package sold separately; call 476-5775 for information)

#### **More Detail**

Conspirare’s “Christmas at the Carillon” is one of Austin’s most popular holiday experiences. Performances at its namesake venue The Carillon – an intimate chapel-like space – always sell out early; this year’s Saturday and Sunday performances at that venue were sold out by late September. The Long Center performance on December 6 enables even more people to experience the world-class artistic quality and unique programming of Conspirare’s holiday concert, at a range of ticket prices to fit every budget.

Artistic director Craig Hella Johnson states: “Over the years, our annual Christmas at the Carillon series has become a special tradition for many of us. Tradition generally means ‘a handing down.’ Our returning audience members play an important part in this handing down of song and spirit, and we invite first-time Conspirare listeners to become part of it too.

“For this special season, Conspirare aims to create musical experiences that meet people where they are in their lives and reflect, in unique and inspirational ways, the divine light in each of us. It is a great coming together through music. The wildly varied musical choices make for great fun, but also reflect the beautiful diversity of our human community.”

More about Conspirare at [www.conspirare.org](http://www.conspirare.org).

#### **About featured guest Patrice Pike**

Austin native Patrice Pike has been a professional musician and songwriter since she was sixteen, with such irrepressible talent that Billboard magazine proclaimed her “one of the finest up and coming contemporary rock singers in America.” Pike is known to many as the electric front woman for the seminal Austin jam band Sister Seven, which she co-founded when she was barely out of high school. She wrote and sang Sister Seven’s Top 10 Billboard hit “Know What You Mean” and was the USA Songwriting Competition overall grand prize winner for the song “My Three Wishes,” co-written with band members.

When Sister Seven disbanded in 2000 after a short but successful run, Pike was already reenergizing as

a songwriter. Over the past decade she has independently released four acclaimed solo records, showcasing her socially astute, literate lyrics alongside her powerful vocals. She has toured in the U.S. and overseas, building an impressive grassroots fan base, and has co-created numerous records and musical groups. Patrice was the youngest musician inducted into the Austin/Texas Music Hall of Fame. Along with that honor she was also named Musician of the Year, Best Female Vocalist, and Austin Song of the year for "Beautiful Thing," which she debuted on CBS in summer 2006.

Pike has continued to grow and evolve as both songwriter and performer and is currently producing arguably the finest work of her music career. She has performed in scenarios from major music festivals like Austin City Limits to community theaters, clubs, and house concerts. She first appeared with Conspirare in December 2009 and was so enthusiastically received that she was immediately invited back for this year. Long a respected social and environmental activist, Pike is also the co-founder and now executive director of the Grace Foundation of Texas, an organization that provides services for young adult survivors of homelessness.

More about Patrice at [www.patricepike.com](http://www.patricepike.com).

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Photos of Conspirare, Craig Hella Johnson, and Patrice Pike are available on request.