

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conspirare presents

**Walking 600 Miles for Art: A Conspirare Choral Conversation
Featuring Lee Sandstead and Craig Hella Johnson**

**Sunday, January 8, 2:30 pm
Blanton Museum of Art (Auditorium)
200 Congress Ave. (corner of Congress and MLK Blvd.), Austin**

Admission \$15

Reserve tickets through Conspirare at 512-476-5775 or <http://conspirare.org/shop/special-events/>

Conspirare begins 2012 with the group's next Choral Conversation, a musical and artistic look at an ancient spiritual adventure still pursued by thousands today. In anticipation of Conspirare's January 19-22 performances of the choral work *Path of Miracles*, renowned art historian [Lee Sandstead](#) will speak on "[Walking 600 Miles for Art: Falling in Love with Art through Pilgrimage.](#)" January 8 at the Blanton.

Emmy®-nominated former host of the Travel Channel's "Art Attack" and one of the country's most celebrated art speakers, Sandstead followed the footsteps of medieval pilgrims along Spain's 600-mile Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James) during a time of difficulty in his own life. The trek had transformative and healing significance for him, and he has been sharing his experiences to rave reviews and large audiences around the country.

Featuring his own breathtaking photography, Sandstead's lecture will discuss the history of the Camino and the artistic and spiritual value of pilgrimage. Conspirare artistic director Craig Hella Johnson opens the 90-minute program with a brief preview of *Path of Miracles*, inspired by composer Joby Talbot's own experiences along the Camino. Audience Q & A will conclude the program.

Lee Sandstead's appearance is made possible with the generous support of Elizabeth and Jerele Neeld. Seton Cove is cosponsor for Lee Sandstead's educational lecture and Conspirare's January concert series, inspired by the theme of spiritual pilgrimage.

About the Concert

Joby Talbot: *Path of Miracles* "An evocative odyssey." – *The Times*

January 19, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fredericksburg

January 20-22, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin

Details and tickets at 512-474-5664 or Conspirare.org

Conspirare performs the southwestern U.S. premiere of *Path of Miracles* by British composer Joby Talbot (b. 1971). This mystical marvel was inspired by the famous medieval pilgrimage that still inspires thousands of seekers each year.

Please see separate media release for complete details.