

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conspirare presents

HOLIDAY BIG SING

Where the audience is the choir!

Tuesday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.

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

FREE admission, no reservation needed

Information at www.conspirare.org or 512-476-5775

For the second year, Conspirare presents a holiday version of the Big Sing, its popular community event *where the audience is the choir*. Participants at the free gathering will lift their voices together to sing music of the season in the resonant sanctuary of St. Martin's Lutheran Church, lavishly decorated for Christmas. The program will be devoted to holiday music from beloved carols to popular classics, all under the direction of Craig Hella Johnson.

Johnson says, "The Big Sing is one of the most powerful experiences we have together each year. Hearing so many of our new and longtime friends singing together reminds me of what a wonderful conduit singing is for the living and expression of all that we experience. I am excited that we'll be back at the always beautiful St. Martin's for a second annual Holiday Big Sing."

About the Big Sing

Conspirare's acclaimed artistic director Craig Hella Johnson, the 2013-14 Texas State Musician, leads each Big Sing gathering in vocal warm-ups and short, melodic songs that can be easily learned. As musical hosts, Conspirare Symphonic Choir members sit among the audience to sing along and provide musical support and encouragement during the hour-long event. Song sheets are provided.

Musical selections at Big Sings range from popular rounds, spirituals, and Beatles songs to the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah* and popular 20th century standards from the Great American Songbook. Johnson hand-picks songs for each Big Sing to delight, thrill, and sometimes challenge the singing audience, always with remarkably beautiful and inspirational results. The Holiday Big Sing features seasonal music.

The Big Sing is open to everyone, regardless of musical training and experience. Through a fun, no-pressure group singing experience, audience members learn basic vocal technique and sing as one with hundreds of others. The most recent Big Sing in October attracted more than 400 participants, a new Big Sing record.

The Big Sing is supported by the Rachael & Ben Vaughan Foundation, City of Austin Cultural Arts Division, and Texas Commission on the Arts

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[Photo attached](#): Big Sing at the Blanton, October 2013. Photo by Irene Adams.