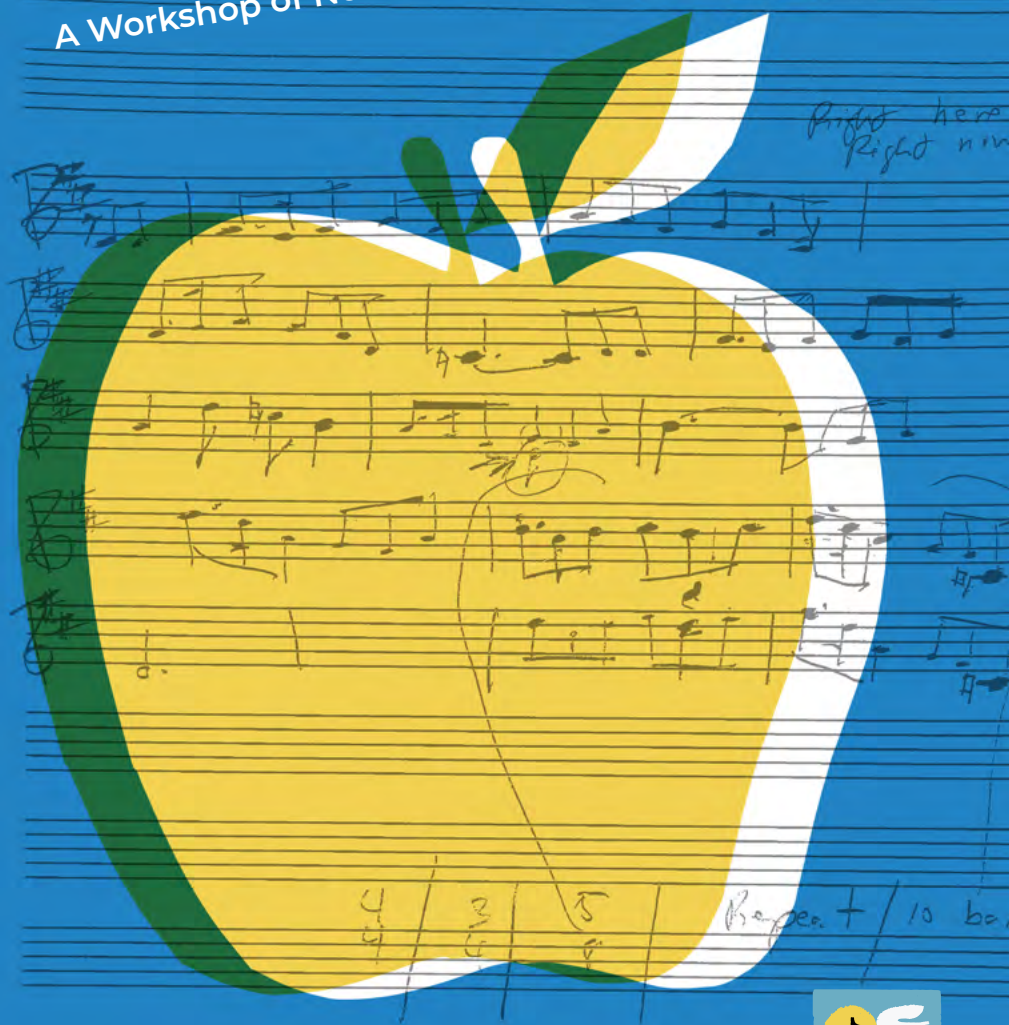


FRESH OFF THE PAGE

A Workshop of New Music by **Craig Hella Johnson**



conspirare
Craig Hella Johnson + COMPANY OF VOICES



conspirare



Helping Texans

is at the heart of H-E-B.

Over 115 years ago, we opened our doors to help make the lives of hard-working Texans better. We were a family business back then. We remain a family business today with a passion for - and a helping hand in - every community we serve.

From fighting hunger and providing disaster relief to honoring Texas educators and our Nation's military, we're firm believers in Texans helping Texans. We do this for one simple reason. **We are from here, so we are helping here.**



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Learn more at [heb.com/community](https://www.heb.com/community)

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FRESH *OFF THE PAGE*

SATURDAY **OCTOBER 3** 2026

3 PM & 7 PM

BAKER CENTER CAFETORIUM

conspirare
Craig Hella Johnson + COMPANY OF VOICES

Craig Hella Johnson Artistic Director & Conductor

Thank you to members of the Producer's Circle
who helped bring *Fresh Off the Page* to life:

The Tejemnos Foundation
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Conspirare thanks these additional concert sponsors:

Paula D'Arcy
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This project is supported in part by an Elevate Grant
of Austin Arts, Culture, Music and Entertainment.

ARTISTIC PERSONNEL



Craig Hella Johnson
Artistic Director & Conductor

SOPRANO



Emily Yocum Black
Paducah, KY



Chelsea Helm
Washington, DC

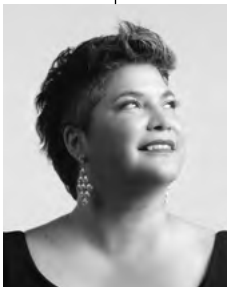


Kathlene Rich
Santa Fe, NM



Kayleen Sánchez
San Marcos, TX

ALTO



Laura Mercado
Austin, TX

TENOR



Haitham Haidar
Montreal, QC



Wilson Nichols
New York, NY



Brendan Jacob Smith
Brooklyn, NY

BASS



Simon Barrad
San Francisco, CA



Gregory Fletcher
Moreno Valley, CA



Michael Hawes
Pflugerville, TX

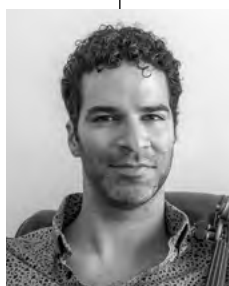


Enrico Lagasca
New York, NY

INSTRUMENTALISTS



Tom Burritt
Leander, TX
Percussion



Patrice Calixte
Austin, TX
Violin



Zachariah Matteson
Austin, TX
Violin



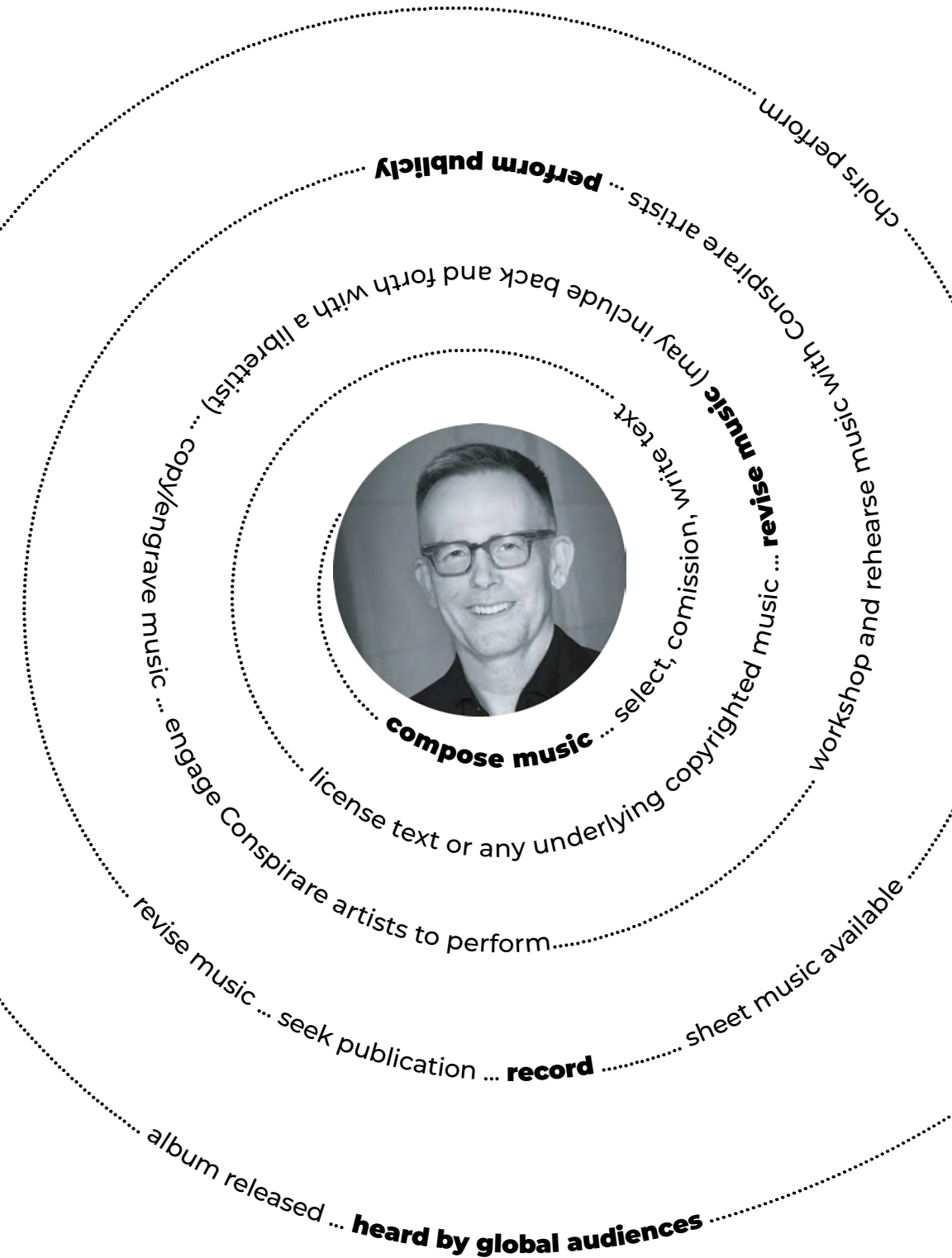
Douglas Harvey
Austin, TX
Cello



John Fremgen
Austin, TX
Bass



Joseph Choi
Austin, TX
Rehearsal Pianist



Conspire Singers on Singing New Music



“When I sing new music, I get to exercise my imagination in a way that is totally unique. It’s a way of sharing ideas with an audience and other performers with a completely blank slate. Anything could happen.”

– Simon Barrad, bass



“I love getting to know the composer through his or her music. When someone is deeply invested in their art, their soul shines through. Their music exposes the most vulnerable and truthful parts of their being... and we have the privilege of experiencing it and sharing it!”

– Kayleen Sánchez, soprano



“It is such a privilege to be the first to sing new music out into the world. I love the openness with which I get to approach new music. When singing older or more standard repertoire, there is often some kind of recording or performance of it that you are constantly measuring yourself against. In new music, there is so much freedom to just explore what is on the page and to bring everything you have as an artist into the fold of creation in the moment.”

– Emily Yocum Black, soprano



“I find it immensely exiting to sing music no one else has heard or sung before. It’s a thrill to discover what a composer wants in real time. I love how things can change and evolve in rehearsal.”

– Brendan Jacob Smith

Production Team

Co-Producer & Technical Director
Robert Harlan

Stage Manager
Viera Buzgova

Assistant Stage Manager
Jonathan Fritzlen

Crew
Sarah Williams
Alyssa Blackwell
John Diaz
Levi McClung
Ansel Harlan

Score preparation and engraving
Benjamin Dia

Graphic Design
Karin Elsener

House Manager
Michelle Stone

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Friends and Supporters

TLC Box Office
Baker Center, Karrie League
Austin Classical Guitar
for use of the Steinway Piano
Philip Overbaugh

Love Conspirare?

Help us expand our audience by leaving a Google Review.
Thank You for your Support!



Artist Hosts

Conspirare is grateful to our Artist Hosts for providing artist accommodations.

If you have a spare bedroom (or more!) and would like to learn more about hosting an artist, please contact **Meri Krueger** at mkrueger@conspirare.org.

Teresa Ringness
Fran & Larry Collmann
DeeAnne & Steve Paulson
Lynne Dobson & Greg Wooldridge
Susanna & Richard Finnell
Gwen & Bruce Flory
Tamra Oatman & Eric Cottrell
Lester Tranquilut

Ambassadors

Conspirare is grateful to our Ambassadors for serving as ushers, providing office and storage assistance, and many other jobs that keep us singing!

To learn more about becoming an Ambassador, contact **Janet Bezner** at info@conspirare.org.

Rob & Virginia Hyde
Courtney Aguilar
Michelle Fisher
Maureen Milligan
Deborah Salinas
Lambert Schaelicke
Rita Schaelicke



Emergency Exit Instructions

In an emergency, please listen for instructions from the stage.
Most patrons will exit towards the back.

Staff

Artistic Director

Craig Hella Johnson

Managing Director

Ann McNair

Bookkeeper

Elias Brodsky

Director of Development

Travis Fitzgold

Technical Director and Stage Manager

Robert Harlan

Artist Relations

Meri Krueger

Executive Assistant to the Artistic Dir.

Melissa LeClair

Director of Accounting

Jane Ramirez

Production Assistant

Indri Schaelicke

Grants Manager

Catherine Spainhour

Front of House Coordinator

Janet Bezner

Development Coordinator

Josephina Wright

Performance Note

Conspirare performs in a variety of venues designed to enhance choral sound. Choral music has a rich history in religious and cultural traditions. In performing such works and in such places, Conspirare is committed to the vastness of human expression, belonging, and love. We value and celebrate the great diversity of religious, artistic, and human experiences that our musicians and audience members bring. All are welcome here. Come, create the space in which the music is held today.

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Certified Wellcoach

Co-Chair

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ACC (Certified Coach)

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WQXR, NY

Jerry Gatlin

Commercial/Instrument rated pilot

Elias Haslanger

Saxophonist and Global Business Executive, AMD

Joey M. Martin

Director of Choral Activities/Associate Dean,
Texas State University

Steven Paulson

3M (ret.)

Oliver Scofield

Senior Advisor, KI Concerts

Joni Wallace

Dentist, Dr. Joni Wallace, DDS

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Joel Brauer Fund
 FOR NEW MUSIC

We are thankful for the hundreds of donors who make Conspirare's music possible.

To view a full donor list for dates ranging from 8/1/25 through 7/31/26, please scan this QR code:





UPCOMING EVENTS

2026-2027 Season

Complete details at conspirare.org/full-calendar/

Felix Mendelssohn's

ELIJAH

Saturday, November 7 at 8 pm

INTERFAITH ACTION DAY OF THANKS

Sunday, November 22 at 3 pm; Symphonic Choir prelude at 2:45 pm

Conspirare Christmas

Saturday, December 5 at 8 pm & **Sunday, December 6** at 4 pm

In Houston: **Monday, December 7** at 7:30 pm

BIG SING Holiday

Saturday, December 12 at 4 pm / Venue to be Announced

THE SOUL OF US

Friday, March 5 at 8 pm & **Saturday, March 6** at 4pm

Will also be performed at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference

HIDDEN MUSIC

Friday, April 16 at 6 pm

STILL WE SING

Friday, May 21 at 8 pm & **Saturday, May 22** at 4 pm

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Art Beat, from KUT and KUTX, is your source for local arts and culture coverage. Through in-depth reporting, artist profiles, breaking news and curated recommendations, Art Beat explores how art is created, funded and experienced — and why it matters to our community.

Because art isn't an extra — it's what brings a community to life.



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