



Considering Matthew Shepard

Composed & Conducted by CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON

CONSPIRARE

"Out there in the audience we knew we were experiencing something life-changing – something beyond beautiful. Something timeless and precious. Something to be remembered the rest of our lives."

Glenda Goehrs, Audience Member

"Considering Matthew Shepard is by far the most intricate, beautiful and unyielding artistic response to this notorious anti-gay hate crime."

Jason Marsden, Executive Director, Matthew Shepard Foundation

"[A] powerful message of transformation and love. Brilliant!"

Vance Y. George, Director Emeritus, San Francisco Symphony Chorus

"Considering Matthew Shepard is, for all its rich range of text and musical language, most simply an act of love."

Shawn Kirchner, Composer

"A study in the human condition, our dark side and the light... powerfully important"

Christopher Cross, Musician

"Considering Matthew Shepard offers up a unique chance brew of compassion, sorrow and even joy at a level of sophistication one rarely experiences."

Gregory Hinton, Author, Filmmaker

"To say that I was moved would be an understatement..."

Peter Bay, Music Director and Conductor, Austin Symphony

"Craig Hella Johnson's simple eloquence in making a tragedy transcendent is felt in every moment of this piece."

Evans Mirageas, Artistic Director, Cincinnati Opera / VP for Artistic Planning and Operations, Atlanta Symphony

"I was both deeply moved and very impressed... the emotional impact, the highest level of performance artistry, and [Craig Hella Johnson's] mastery of every element of compositional craft."

Donald Grantham, Composer, Professor, Butler School of Music, University of Texas at Austin

"One of the most original and innovative American works of the past several decades"

Robert Kyr, Composer

"It's right up there with playing 'Sisters of Mercy' with Leonard [Cohen] in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam looking out at 3000 lighters waving... This is an important work that now has its wings."

Mitch Watkins, *Considering Matthew Shepard* Guitarist

"In this stunning masterwork, Craig Hella Johnson has achieved not only an elegant tribute to Matthew Shepard, but he has succeeded – like Philomena in Greek mythology – in transmuting vast pain into profound beauty."

Dorothy Walters, Author