

Established in Austin, Texas in 1991, Conspirare is a Grammy-winning and internationally recognized choir with a reputation for “expanding the boundaries of choral performance” (*Wall Street Journal*). Conspirare, which translates from Latin as “to breathe together,” is led by founder and Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson, and is comprised of soloists from around the country. Conspirare’s extensive discography includes 12 releases on the harmonia mundi label. The 2014 album *The Sacred Spirit of Russia* won the Grammy for Best Choral Performance. Conspirare’s ambitious mission is to engage the power of music to change lives. Through its artistic excellence, creative programming, commissioning, and educational endeavors, the organization has established itself as an agent of change and a bedrock of the Texas arts community and beyond.

Conspirare's most recent recording and touring project, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, is a three-part oratorio composed by Craig Hella Johnson. The work, which debuted at number four on *Billboard*'s Traditional Classical Chart, is an evocative and compassionate musical response to the murder of Matthew Shepard. The *Washington Post* calls the impact “immediate, profound and, at times, overwhelming.” Conspirare debuted *Considering Matthew Shepard* in Austin in 2016, and presents the work at Boston Symphony Hall and Texas A&M in 2016-17. A national tour is now in the planning stages for the 2017-18 season in observance of the 20th anniversary of Matthew Shepard’s death.

Conspirare has commissioned works from wide-ranging composers including David Lang, Tarik O’Regan, Jocelyn Hagen, Donald Grantham, Eric Whitacre, Nico Muhly, Mark Adamo, Robert Kyr, Jake Heggie, and Eric Banks. A commitment to new music and willingness to showcase a broad context through diverse programming is evident from the first recording in 2004. *Through the green fuse* features a Gaelic hymn, African-American spirituals, and works by Sibelius, Stephen Foster, Eric Whitacre, among others.

*Green Fuse* was followed in 2006 by *Requiem* (works by Howells, Whitacre, and Pizzetti) which received two Grammy Award nominations. In 2008, *Threshold of Night* (music by Tarik O’Regan) also received two nominations, including Best Classical Album. The 2009 PBS television special “A Company of Voices: Conspirare in Concert” received the Grammy Award nomination for Best Classical Crossover, and *Pablo Neruda: The Poet Sings* was nominated for Best Choral Performance in 2016. Conspirare’s “astonishing” (*Bay Area Reporter*) 2012 recording of works by Samuel Barber includes two new arrangements for chamber choir and orchestra by Robert Kyr. In Europe, harmonia mundi’s re-release of *Requiem* in 2009 won the Netherlands’ prestigious 2010 Edison Award. In 2015, *Path of Miracles* was awarded the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik in Germany.

Conspirare represented the U.S. at the Eighth World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen in 2008, joining invited choirs from nearly 40 countries. In 2012, the group was invited to France for six performances at the Polyfolia Festival and a public concert in Paris. In 2016, the Olavsfestdagene festival, in Trondheim, Norway, presented the group in a collaboration with the internationally acclaimed ensemble Trondheimsolistene. Conspirare

has performed throughout the U.S., including appearances as a featured choir at the American Choral Directors Association annual conference and regional ACDA conventions.

At home, Conspirare performs a full annual season in Austin and Central Texas where it has received ongoing recognition from local organizations and critics, and Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson was named Texas State Musician. The group is also committed to an ongoing outreach program which includes free community Big Sings and performances at Travis County Correctional Facility. In 2013, Conspirare became a Resident Company of Austin's Long Center for the Performing Arts.

Conspirare is a growing organization, and while known for the flagship vocal ensemble, the organization also boasts the Conspirare Symphonic Choir (a large auditioned ensemble that performs works for chorus, often with instrumental ensemble), the Conspirare Chamber Orchestra, and Conspirare Youth Choirs, an educational program made up of three choirs (Prelude, Kantorei, and Allegro) under the direction of Nina Revering.