

# conspirare

Craig Hella Johnson + A COMPANY OF VOICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ann McNair / [amcnair@conspirare.org](mailto:amcnair@conspirare.org)

## Conspirare Announces 2017-2018 Season *Dynamic Choral Art*

**AUSTIN** - Shaped by Artistic Director [Craig Hella Johnson's](#) vision "that choral singing can be an entry point for discovering vast and vibrant aspects of our world and our lives," [Conspirare's 2017-2018 season](#) includes performances by the three ensembles the comprise Conspirare's Company of Voices. Johnson says, "We envision each performance as an invitation to every listener: an invitation to listen, discover, explore and feel more alive in the world. I am even more excited and inspired by this notion than when we first began in 1993. The music itself and the extraordinary transmission that takes place among dedicated singers and listeners creates a space to experience joy, meaning and discovery." **Tickets go on sale to the public on August 1, 2017.**



The Grammy® Award-winning **Conspirare** chamber choir ushers in the holiday season with [Conspirare Christmas](#). [Carrie Rodriguez](#) appears for the first time with Conspirare as this year's guest artist, commenting "I've been in awe of the artistry and exquisite virtuosity of Conspirare for many years, so being asked to join them for this collaborative musical journey is truly a dream come true. I can't wait to see where it takes us!" In addition to Austin performances, Conspirare Christmas will tour to the Tobin Center in San Antonio and be presented by the Victoria Bach Festival in Victoria, Texas and St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston, TX.



Bass-baritone [Dashon Burton](#) and Craig Hella Johnson, piano, will present the next installment of [The Poet Sings](#) series in February. Burton is a rising star on the international music stage and a cherished member of the Conspirare ensemble. *Considering Matthew Shepard* listeners, who will remember him from solos in "Fire of the Ancient Heart" and "The Fence (that night)," will hear him perform Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe (A Poet's Love)*, Op. 48 and other works.



After robust national acclaim, a jubilant ovation in Boston's Symphony Hall and the February 2017 filming in partnership with KLRU, Austin PBS, [Considering Matthew Shepard](#) will tour to Dallas, Lincoln, NE and Oxford, MS in February 2018 for a third year of performances and outreach across the United States. Touring will continue in June and Fall 2018 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death.

Conspirare's [Symphonic Choir](#) reconvenes for [Symphonic Choir Sings](#) in October. They will also perform with the Austin Symphony, Ballet Austin, Austin Opera and other collaborators in the Bernstein *Mass* presented by Merick Strategies.

Artistic Director **Nina Revering** conducts the **Conspirare Youth Choirs** in their 13<sup>th</sup> season on two programs: [Breath of Heaven](#) and [Dreamcatcher](#). The Allegro choir is honored to have been invited to perform at the Southwestern Division of the American Choral Directors Association Conference in Oklahoma City in March 2018.

**Hidden Music** will launch the celebration of Conspirare's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season and include a presentation of special performances and events happening through June 2019.

Conspirare's outreach includes four Big Sings and performances at the Travis County Correctional Center. Conspirare will continue its partnership with local schools to provide tickets for underserved students and their families.

### **2017-2018 Performances**

#### ***Symphonic Choir Sings***

- FRI, 10.27.2017 University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX

#### ***Conspirare Youth Choirs: Breath of Heaven***

- FRI, 12.01.17 University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
- SAT, 12.02.17 University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX

#### ***Conspirare Christmas with Special Guest Carrie Rodriguez***

- THU, 12.07.17 First United Methodist Church, Victoria, TX
- FRI, 12.08.17 Saint Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston, TX
- SAT, 12.09.17 / WED, 12.13.17 / THU, 12.14.17 The Carillon on Exposition, Austin, TX
- SUN, 12.10.17 The Tobin Center, San Antonio, TX
- MON, 12.11.17 The Long Center, Austin, TX

#### ***The Poet Sings: Dashon Burton with Craig Hella Johnson***

- FRI, 02.02.18 Jessen Auditorium, Homer Rainey Hall, UT Austin Campus, Austin, TX

#### ***Conspirare Youth Choirs: Dreamcatcher***

- SAT, 05.12.18 University Presbyterian Church, Austin TX, Austin, TX

### **Special Events**

#### ***Considering Matthew Shepard: Encore Performances 2018***

- WED, 02.21.18 Dallas City Performance Hall, Dallas, TX
- SUN, 02.25.18 Lied Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln, Nebraska
- TUE, 02.28.18 Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oxford, Mississippi

#### ***Hidden Music***

- Returns in Spring 2018 to launch Conspirare's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Details coming Fall 2017.

#### ***Bernstein Mass***

- THU, 06.28.18 / FRI, 06.29.18 Long Center for the Performing, Arts Austin, TX

---

### **About Conspirare**

**Conspirare** is a choral ensemble that creates exceptional concert experiences and world-class recordings under the incomparable direction of Craig Hella Johnson. The company is composed of three ensembles. The Grammy-Award winning **Conspirare** is the flagship ensemble of the organization. Johnson and Conspirare were awarded the **2014 Best Choral Performance Grammy® for *The Sacred Spirit of Russia*** – one of eleven recordings released on [PIAS] harmonia mundi. The **Conspirare Symphonic Choir** is an auditioned chorus of both professional and volunteer singers who reside in the Austin, Texas area. **Conspirare Youth Choirs (CYC)** was formed as an outreach program to seek and train young musicians who share a love and commitment for creating music at a high level of excellence. CYC singers perform in three ensembles: Prelude, Kantorei, and Allegro.

[Conspirare press kit page \(images for download, info pdf\)](#)

[Season 17-18 Overview](#)