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Conspirare Announces Appointment of Ann McNair as Managing Director

July 20, 2017 – Austin, TX – Conspirare announced the appointment of Ann McNair to the Managing Director position effective immediately. McNair, who currently serves as Director of Operations, has been with the company for six years. Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson will partner with McNair to manage the Grammy® Award-winning ensemble.

Johnson said "What an exciting time for Conspirare. I am beyond thrilled to be welcoming Ann McNair into her new role as Managing Director. Having worked closely with her for several years, I have had the privilege of observing her many layers of talents and skills and her extraordinary capacity for multi-dimensional, visionary leadership. First and foremost, she cares deeply about the music and its potential for transformation in our world. She is a strategic and innovative thinker and a gifted communicator and manager. She has consistently proven herself to be strongly prepared to lead the business and administrative aspects of Conspirare. Ann has earned the respect of all within the organization as well as of many civic and arts leaders who have had the opportunity to work alongside her. Personally, I am overjoyed to be able to work with Ann as a true partner in this work as I know she will work with passion and dedication to fulfill the vision of Conspirare in the years ahead."

McNair commented, "I am delighted to broaden my partnership with Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare. It is such a gift to be grounded in our home base of Austin, TX while continuing to develop a national and global presence. The unique musical voice of Conspirare continues to captivate me. I look forward to contributing to the ongoing work of the artists, staff, and board to connect our community to the power of the human voice as we shape the organization for the next generation of Conspirare offerings."

Incoming board Chair Nancy Lesch, who began her three year term on July 1, marked the appointment by saying "As we prepare to celebrate our 25th Anniversary Season, we are delighted to have a new Managing Director in place. Ann's history with Conspirare, as well as her fiercely passionate commitment to the organization, will help us to excel and deliver at the same extraordinary level people have come to expect. I am delighted that Ann can seamlessly move into this role. There is no better individual to continue our important work as we continue to push boundaries, engage audiences and transform lives."

Entering her sixth year with Conspirare, McNair's prior role was Director of Artistic Operations and Program Fulfillment. Notable achievements include shaping Conspirare's ongoing collaboration with KLRU, Austin PBS and the Matthew Shepard Foundation in support of *Considering Matthew Shepard*, securing a digital distribution agreement with A-Train Entertainment for *Conspirare*

Christmas recordings, and developing and implementing outreach at the Travis County Correctional Center. Previously, Ann was a student affairs professional at the University of Texas at Austin for 11 years, holding posts in the College of Fine Arts, College of Engineering Dean and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Ann earned her a Master of Education in Higher Education Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Music from The University of Texas at Austin.

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](#)