



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CONSPIRARE RELEASES LATEST RECORDING

### *Considering Matthew Shepard* by Craig Hella Johnson

— Record Release Party at Waterloo Records September 7 — Public invited, Free

(Austin, TX) August 18, 2016— Grammy®-winning founder and Artistic Director of Conspirare Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare present their world premiere recording of *Considering Matthew Shepard* – Johnson's musical response to the tragic death of a young gay man who has become an American icon and a symbol for hope and empowerment.

### **Considering Matthew Shepard Release Party**

**Wed., September 7, 2016**

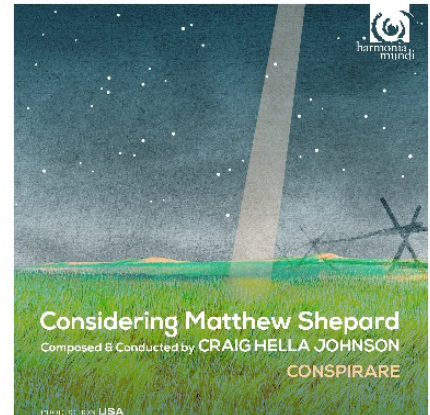
**5:30-7:00 p.m.**

**Waterloo Records & Video, 600 N. Lamar, Austin**

Conspirare and Waterloo Records will host a free event with live entertainment by Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare artists Stefanie Moore and Laura Mercado-Wright. CD sales and signing with complimentary Shiner beer.

[More at Conspirare website](#)

Phone: 512-476-5775



*“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)

**PIAS Harmonia Mundi will release the album internationally on September 9, 2016.**

*Considering Matthew Shepard* is also available for purchase at the [Conspirare online shop](#).

Thousands heard *Considering Matthew Shepard* in concert this year. The world premiere was February 20th at the new 1,200-seat state-of-the-art Austin ISD Performing Arts Center. Shortly after, it was the centerpiece for the American Choral Directors Association conference in Pasadena, with an additional performance in Los Angeles. After the Austin premiere, **Jason Marsden, Executive Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation** said, *“As a friend of Matt’s who lived through the dark days after his attack and observed first-hand the outpouring of grief, outrage and activism it spurred from coast to coast and overseas, it was deeply touching to sit amongst a thousand strangers, sharing tears and laughter and, ultimately, a sense that the hopes Matt had for a better world are very much still potential realities, if we can work together to achieve them.”*

At a time when the world is so troubled, the relevance of *Considering Matthew Shepard* is undeniable.

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#### **CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD IN CONCERT 2017:**

**January 29 & 30 - College Station, TX - Rudder Theatre, Texas A&M University**

*Considering Matthew Shepard* will continue touring and will be filmed at Austin's Moody Theatre in partnership with **KLRU**.

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**Conspirare** is a professional choir under the direction of Craig Hella Johnson. Inspired by the power of music to change lives, the Grammy®-winning vocal ensemble engages singers from around the world who join forces to deliver extraordinary live musical experiences and recordings. Johnson and Conspirare were awarded the **2014 Best Choral Performance Grammy® for *The Sacred Spirit of Russia*** – one of eleven recordings released on harmonia mundi.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare](#)

[Considering Matthew Shepard project page](#) (links to info, press, and more)

Harmonia Mundi PIAS [press release and album cover](#) (at album page)